

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

» UXO found at 4 construction sites

total of 93 World War II unexploded bombs were found during separate excavations at four construction sites on Saipan last Tuesday and Wednesday, according to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services yesterday.

Medical referral not affected by GMH denial of accreditation

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The CNMI's medical referral patients won't be affected by Guam Memorial Hospital losing its accreditation from The Joint Commission which issued the denial that took effect last Monday.

"This doesn't affect our patients

who may be medically referred to GMH. They are still able to receive care there [GMH]," Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. public information officer Sami Brimingham-Babauta told Saipan Tribune.

The administration, in a statement sent to Sainan Tribune said it was disappointing news that GMH lost its

See MEDICAL on Page 4

DFEMS acting spokesperson Bobbie Jean DLC. Taisacan said DFEMS Hazmat/Explosive Team (XRT) secured and relocated the 93 unexploded ordnances to a bomb pit in Marpi Wednesday at 6pm.

Taisacan said the bombs were dug up at construction sites in Kannat Tabla, Triple J Motors on Beach Road in Chalan Laulau, Herman's

Bakery in As Lito, and in Wireless, Capitol Hill.

XRT responded to the sites and ceased projects until the areas

See BOMBS on Page 4

Torres accuses Sablan of using NAP as 'political tool'

"This should transcend petty politics"

By ERWIN ENCINARES

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres blasted Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) after the delegate criticized him in a previous letter (see story on Page 2) and called out his administration for mishandling federal monies for nutritional programs.

In a four-page letter addressed to the delegate from the Governor's Office dated July 18, 2018, Torres clarified that the



Torres

CNMI would instead be left with \$5.9 million available from the 2014 Agricultural Act funding in 2021, not the \$10.1 million Sablan mentioned in his June 12, 2018 letter to the

> **See TORRES** on Page 4

20 floats, 21 marching groups in LibDay parade

By FAHIM UDDIN

fahimuddin489@gmail.com

The 2018 Liberation Day will commence tomorrow, July 21, after 21 marching groups will be tak-

Fourth of July parade more than two

Ruszala said a total of 20 floats and Liberation Day festival grounds. Tropical Storm Maria postponed the ing part in the event, which starts

promptly at 3pm at Quartermaster Road and ends up at the parade Liberation Day parade chair Brad viewing stage situated in front of the

> The CNMI Color Guard will See PARADE on Page 4

INSIDE



NATION

FBI Director Christopher Wray said Wednesday that Russia continues to use fake news, propaganda and covert operations to "spin up" Americans.





ASIA

The Thai soccer boys and their coach began their first day back home with their families since they were rescued from a flooded cave.

PAGE 21



LIFE & STYLE

Comic-Con fans know one thing to be true: Where there is fun, there's usually a line that precedes it.

PAGE 24



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Local

KILILI ASKS TORRES ANEW:

'Use \$17M to make more eligible for food aid'

WASHINGTON, D.C.—
Delegate Gregorio Kilili
Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP)
has asked Gov. Ralph DLG
Torres—again—to use \$17
million in available federal
funds to feed families in need.

"You have not yet responded to my letter of June 12, recommending that you raise income thresholds, so that more families in the Marianas qualify for federal food assistance," Sablan wrote the governor on Tuesday.

Now, a Marianas family of four cannot get food aid if their income is greater than \$17,412. Sablan estimated that the CNMI could afford to increase the cap to \$25,000, the federal poverty line. That would cover more households earning minimum wage, on fixed incomes, or retirees.

"Your administration has previously criticized me for not consulting with you on this issue. Yet, when I did consult with you in my June 12 letter, you failed even to acknowledge receipt.

"More important, by your silence you fail to explain to the people of the Marianas why federal resources that should ensure families have enough to eat instead sit idle, unused.

"You owe these families an explanation," Sablan said.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Commonwealth will have a surplus of \$23 million this fiscal year, \$18 million next year, \$16 million in 2020, and \$17 million in 2021. These projections include the benefits increase that began on May 1.

"The governor made the right choice to raise benefits to the national SNAP level in May," Sablan said. "That has long been one of my goals.

"But I also want income standards to go up—as they are in Guam.

"Because of the money I put into the 2014 Agricultural Act the Commonwealth has millions it can use to help families now. I am asking the governor, again, to take action."

As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, Sablan added \$30.5 million for the Marianas in Section 4031 of the Agricultural Act, Public Law 113-79. He was also able to increase the Marianas annual food stamp block grant from \$10.6 million in 2009 to \$12.148 million today. *(PR)*



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Blanco: Additional tax to impact island economies

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) is hoping the Guam Legislature would think of the impact of a bill that was introduced by Sen. Telena C. Nelson that aims to impose a tax on transshipment fuel.

He joins the call earlier made by the nine leaders of the Micronesian Islands Forum and members of the Association of the Pacific Islands Legislature in asking 34th Guam Legislature Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz and its author to consider in entertaining the bill.

Bill 257-34, co-authored by Sens. Thomas C. Ada and Dennis G. Rodriguez Jr., would eliminate tax exemptions on transshipped fuel that goes through the port of Guam once it becomes a law.

Transshipped fuel Guam—intended for the ports in the CNMI (Saipan, Tinian, and Rota), the Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap), Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands—has been tax exempt for three decades.

"While I respect the bill's intent to raise critically needed funding for public services to benefit the people of Guam and for safety at the Guam port, the \$4.5 million estimated to be realized through imposing this transshipment tax will be minimal compared to the far reaching and deep ramifications on the economies of the CNMI, FSM, RMI, and Palau," said Blanco.

"Not to mention the future effects of further migrations to Guam from these sister islands because of the ill effects this bill will certainly place on the fragile economies of our region," he added.

Blanco said short-term economic gains to be earned by Guam at the expense of their island neighbors would benefit no one. "I view this act as a step backwards for the advancement of our region and our competitiveness in the world."

"Furthermore, I strongly feel this bill is inconsistent with the goal that we should work

together for our common benefit, rather than on what will be harmful to each island jurisdiction," added Blanco.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, being the chair of the 23rd MIF, spearheaded a letter that expressed by all the leaders of the nine Micronesian islands. The letter said additional tax imposed on transshipment fuel would have an adverse impact on other economies.

"As we are sure you are aware, our communities share many of the same challenges in the Micronesian region. Further, history will show that when faced with obstacles, we strive to work together with the goal of reaching a solution that is beneficial, or not harmful, to

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any of our jurisdiction. As such, if this bill were to pass, the negative effects would be detrimental," Torres said in the letter.

The presidents of FSM, the Marshall Islands, and Palau, and the governors of the CNMI, Guam, Chuuk, Kosrae, Ponpei, and Yap are the MIF members.

FSM President Peter M. Christian, Palau President Tommy E. Remengasau, Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine Ed.D., Guam Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo. Chuuk State Gov. Johnson Elimo, and Pohnpei State Gov. Marcelo K. Peterson joined Torres in signing the letter. Yap State Lt. Gov. James Yangetmai signed in behalf of Gov. Tony Ganngiyan. (Jon Perez)

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Senate product for budget expected next week

By ERWIN ENCINARES

REPORTER

A senator involved in the fiscal year 2019 is optimistic that the Senate would have a product for House review next week as the Senate commences their side of the budget process.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) yesterday told Saipan Tribune in an interview that a final Senate product for the fiscal year 2019 budget might be expected on July 25, 2018, well before the budget deadline of Sept. 31, 2018.

Taisacan said that last Tues-

day morning, a certain Mrs.

Kim, a leasor of a property,

called DFEMS to report about

an exploded bomb that was

found during clearing of an

Taisacan said recovered was

one U.S. 100-lb general pur-

open land in Kannat Tabla.

BOMBS

From Page 1

were cleared.

..We anticipate to have a product on or before Wednesday next week. We are working very carefully...with what we received from the House," said Hofschneider, referring to the budget bill the House passed after first and final reading during a July 6, 2018 session.

Hofschneider noted after yesterday's Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee meeting, which he chairs, that the committee would be convening again this morning at 10am in the Senate Chamber on Capitol Hill.

Hofschneider's committee

On Tuesday afternoon, ar-

cheologist Justin Maxwell

called about unexploded

bombs found during excava-

tion for an apartment project

at Triple J Motors' property on

Recovered were one Japa-

nese grenade, two 80mm

mortar HE, three 70mm HE

projectile, and 12-50mm HE

Later that Tuesday af-

ternoon, Michael Guerrero

called to report about an ex-

Beach Road.

projectile.

over the weekend announced that it would be cancelling all budget hearings supposedly scheduled for this week. The budget hearings cancelled included those for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Northern Marianas College.

In response to why the budget hearings were cancelled, Hofschneider clarified that the committee would still be meeting with government agencies regarding their budget requests, just not in the formal setting.

"We realized that most of the

ploded bomb unearthed dur-

ing excavation for a sewer

line at Herman's Bakery

Found was one 5-inch HE

On that same Tuesday af-

ternoon, Taisacan said, Lenard

D. Camacho called that unex-

ploded bombs were seen dur-

ing a land clearing with back-

hoe at Ester Munie property in

Retrieved were one 38mm

HE projective, three 80mm

property in As Lito.

US Projectile.

Wireless.

agencies are satisfied with. the [budget proposal] the administration submitted, with the exemption of autonomous agencies such as CHCC and in this case, NMC," he replied.

Hofschneider noted that the committee decided to "try and have a product as early as possible" by foregoing the remaining budget hearings.

"I will be reaching out to [NMC] to discuss their concerns and, not necessarily in a formal hearing, but basically their concern of what budget figures [they are comfortable

Mortar HE, seven 75mm HE Projectile, and 27-25mm HE Anti-Aircraft/Tank.

Last Wednesday afternoon, archeologist Maxwell called again about more unexploded bombs dug up at Triple J Mo-

tors' property. Recovered during excavation were one Japanese grenade, 21-50mm HE Projectile, four 70mm HE Projectile,

one 75mm HE Projectile, two 80mm HE mortar, and six 110mm HE Projectile.

TORRES From Page 1

pose bomb.

governor. The money goes to the Nutrition Assistance Program and the Enhanced Nutrition Assistance Program, or the NAP and ENAP respectively.

Torres said he obtained the numbers after meeting with top officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service Western Regional Office, namely Regional Administrator Jesus Mendoza, Deputy Regional Administrator Terry Gunnell, Supplemental NAP director Dennis Stewart, Grants Management Division Chief Michael Wiley, and Special Nutrition Programs Director Marissa Cheung, late August 2017.

Torres in his letter noted that since Sablan included numbers that did not concur with NAP and FNS figures, they forwarded the delegate's letter to the FNS to request their response to the information Sablan mentioned in his letter.

"While they did not respond directly to any information they may have provided to your [Sablan's] office, they did provide us with the projection they have

been working by, which is that there will be \$5.9 million available from the 2014 Agricultural Act funding in 2021, contrary to the \$10.1 million you have noted." Torres wrote.

Torres noted that the \$5.9-million figure would further be "reduced drastically" following the NAP-FNS meetings scheduled for August 2018.

"...The FNS will make determinations on an increase to eligibility benefits that will put us at or close to Guam eligibility levels," wrote Torres, adding that several other "major plan components" still require substantial funding, such as the contracting of a financial institution for the Electronic Benefits Transfer; the opening of a fully operational office on Rota and Tinian and part-time satellite offices to accommodate the northern and eastern residents of Saipan, among many others.

'Nothing but compliments'

Torres, in his letter to Sablan, noted that as of publication, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, which administers the NAP and ENAP program, has received nothing but compliments from the federal authorities.

"... There has been no communication from the FNS indicating any mismanagement of the ENAP. Moreover, all of the communications we have received have been complimentary, and have indicated that the NAP is carrying out the program under the close guidance of the FNS, and is on schedule with regard to all of the program's transitional activities," Torres wrote.

He noted that in a May 12, 2017 letter from USDA-FNS Western Regional Office Administrator Jesus Mendoza, it was emphasized that "any changes to the approved implementation plan must be pre-approved by FNS."

"This collaboration [with FNS] resulted in a raising of the maximum benefits on Saipan to the level of Guam, and benefits for Tinian and Rota and the Northern Islands raised 6 percent and 22 percent higher, respectively, in April this year," Torres wrote, adding that application services were extended to 6pm daily in order to accommodate those who struggle with transportation.

NAP benefits, which were increased in April 2018, yielded an increase in recipients for May 2018 compared to May

2017. May 2017 recipients were at 6,594 while May 2018 recipients were at 7,746, a 17percent increase.

Torres noted that benefits increased 120 percent from \$709,062 in May 2017 to over \$1.55 million in May 2018.

"The average individual recipient receiving \$108 in May of 2017 would have received \$201 in May of this year," wrote Torres.

Torres to Kilili: You used to praise NAP management-what happened?

Torres indicated that according to two separate previous press releases issued by Sablan on Jan. 19, 2018 and Jan. 21, 2018, he reportedly "congratulated" the CNMI government and NAP management of the ENAP.

"The CNMI is making good use of the \$32.5 million put into the Agricultural Act of 2014 to make more families eligible and raise food-stamp benefits," wrote Torres citing Sablan.

"I am curious as to what changed between that assessment and the beginning of your criticism of the management of the program in March?" asked Torres.

"Well, we are certainly hap-

ture supports both the House and Senate committees, sharing of information is possible.

Hofschneider's committee conducted budget hearings for the Department of Public Safety and the Public School System last July 10, 2018. The remaining budget hearings scheduled for the Senate committee were cancelled.

PARADE

ate committee."

with]," he said.

In a previous interview with

House Ways and Means Com-

mittee chair Rep. Angel A.

Demapan (R-Saipan), he said

the call to cancel budget hear-

ings was the call of the chair

and a "prerogative of the Sen-

Demapan said that since the

fiscal analyst for the Legisla-

From Page 1

spearhead the marching groups for the parade that also include the following: CNMI PSS JROTC, 2017 Liberation Day Queen Peyton Gomez, 2018 Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera, Man'amko King and Queen and their royal court, the CNMI Senior Little League All-Star team, Northern Mariana Island Football Association, Japan Society of the Northern Marianas, Saipan Awaodori Team, Japan Domannaka, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia). Inc., Rotary Club of Saipan, Kagman Elementary School Leliyal Akkabwung Common Language Immersion Project, Marianas Rugby Club, Lion's Club International, CNMI National Rugby Team, Chinese Association of Saipan, Saipan Falun Dafa Association, Saipan Studio 29:11, and GLS Wasp.

As for the floats, they include the Office of the Governor, Lady Diann Torres Foundation, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Rehabilitation Office, Saipan Mayor's Office, Triple J Enterprises Inc., TanHoldings, Department of Land and Natural Resources, ACH Chuuk CNMI Association, United Filipino Organization, Longowesfischil Urul Faluw, Department of Corrections, Carolinian Affairs Office, San Vicente Lancheros, and the Liberation Day Royal Court.

py to have great support from the mayor's office, Youth With a Mission Discipleship Train-

ing School, and the volunteers. We just need more support from Mother Nature... we are excited to see the performances and presentations of our participants," said Ruszala.

The Liberation Day parade was supposed to take place last July 4, but the onset of Tropical Storm Maria forced the hand of the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, 2018 Liberation Day organizing committee Jr. Joe Ayuyu Jr., and parade chair Brad Ruszala to postpone it to tomorrow.

Like the original schedule, Beach Road from the Atkins Kroll intersection to the Garapan Fishing Base will be closed starting at 12pm in preparation for the 3pm start of the much-awaited parade.

The community is encouraged to stick around the Liberation Day grounds after the parade, as the \$10,000 grand prize raffle will be held at 9pm followed by an outstanding fireworks display at 10pm to bookend the celebration.

The 2018 Liberation Day festivities are still ongoing at Garapan Fishing Base starting at 6pm nightly with food, drinks, entertainment, games, BINGO, trivia giveaways, and more.

Entertainment today, July 20, will feature the Marianas Music Association. Entertainment on the day of the parade on Saturday, July 21, will feature Uprooted at 7pm and Studio 29:11 at 8pm.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Torres pointed out that in 2012 USDA administrator Audrey Rowe issued a letter to Sablan that "severly admonished" the CNMI for overspending on benefits. Torres said the overspending led to benefit reductions to recipients of nearly "14 percent.

Torres' letter did not specify the total figure the 14 percent was derived from.

The governor added that because of this, Sablan "called for and received" strengthened oversight from the USDA-FNS—the "same strengthened oversight that sees the very close partnership and approval regime that is in place.'

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MEDICAL

From Page 1

accreditation but the CNMI's medical referral patients remains one of its priorities.

"GMH has been a vital healthcare partner for our medical referral patients [in] Guam and it's collectively

understood that the news is disappointing. While it is our hope that the ongoing discussions on Guam lead to a proper resolution for GMH, our medical referral program will continue to prioritize the needs of our patients," read the statement.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has also met with Guam officials to let medical referral patients get the healthcare that they need.

"The governor has taken on the issue of medical referral personally and has made great strides in discussions with Guam officials to expand access to referral options for the CNMI beyond Guam," the statement added.

"We will monitor this as it moves forward, but remain cognizant of the need for further action on our part to protect our patients."

TJC is a U.S.-based nonprofit tax-exempt organization that assesses if healthcare organizations and its programs are within the standards they set. They then issue accreditation of all the 50 states and five territories.

Guam Memorial Hospital Authority Board of Trustees vice chair Lillian Perez-Posadas and secretary Melissa Waibel made the announcement of TJC's denial of accreditation.

The denial, per their final review and appeal committee, was based on a for-cause survey last Aug. 8 and 9, 2017 and an on-site validation survey on Jan. 4 and 5 of this year.

The denial of accreditation would mean GMH would lose millions of dollars from the bills they charge to patients under Medicare, the national health insurance program.

Tinian, Rota vets to avail Telehealth services

By JON PEREZ jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Veterans Affairs Pacific Islands Health Care System has partnered with the Tinian and Rota health centers in order to provide Relehealth services to the veterans of both islands in the CNMI.

The Honolulu-based healthcare services provider to veterans in the Pacific Islands understands the need of addressing the challenges faced by CNMI veterans in accessing VE services, which are limited.

The VAPIHCS saw the emerging Telehealth services technology as a viable tool in expanding the reach of its clinical services to veterans in Tinian and Rota.

VAPIHCS signed separate memorandum of agreements to THC and RHC to extend and provide telehealth services and equipment to both islands.

"VAPIHCS has provided the equipment and tools necessary to implement Telehealth services from the THC and RHC," said the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. in a statement.

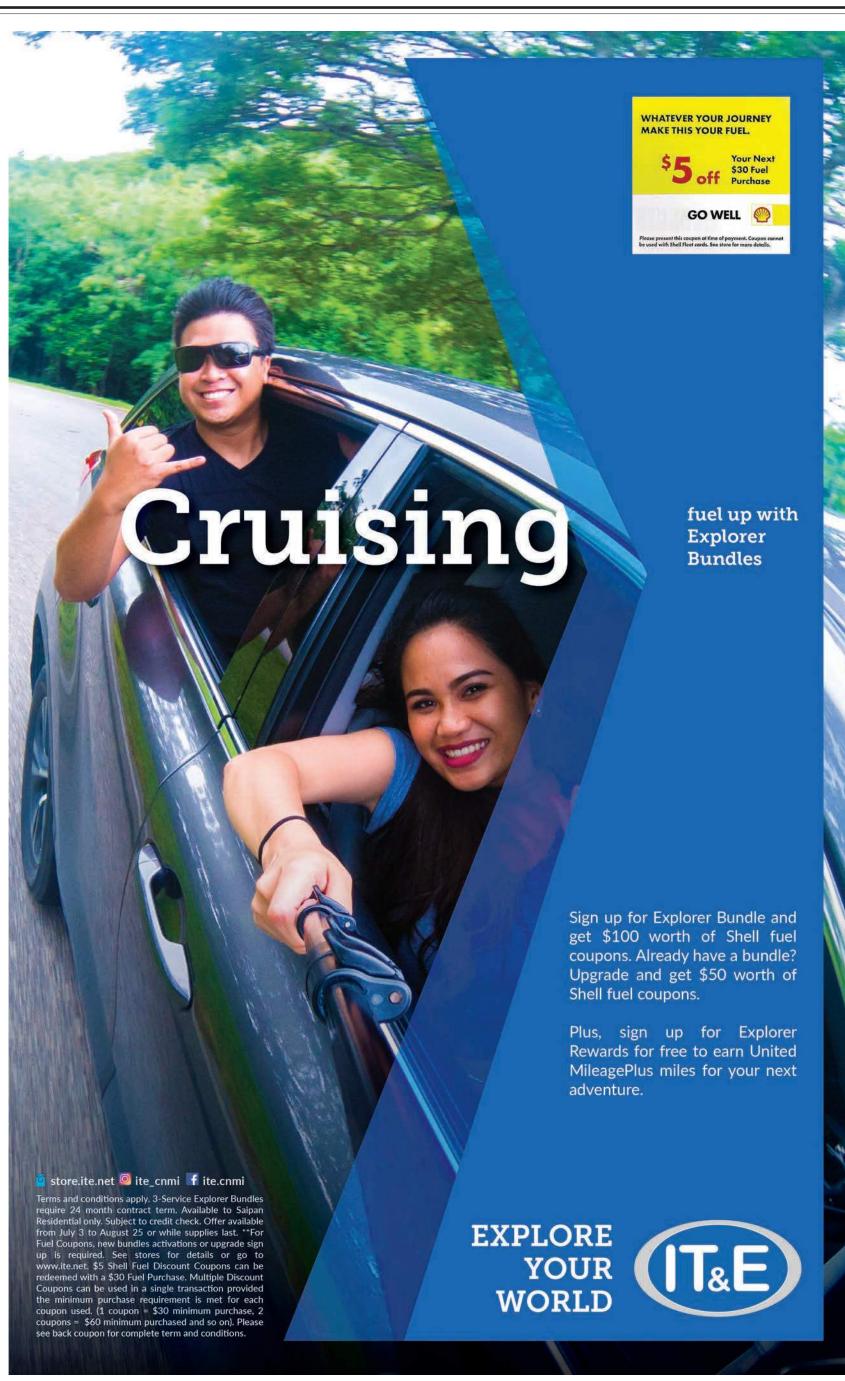
"In exchange, [THC and RHC] are responsible for providing a designated space for the equipment and Telehealth appointments, clinical staff to prepare the patients for the virtual consultation, as well as upkeep of the equipment."

THC had already received the EX90 Telehealth device from VAPIHCS last month and has already connected the device with those of the VA mental health providers in Hawaii.

The EX90 gives real-time interaction with the patient and a VA physician using video conferencing.

Primary care, mental health, and clinical pharmacy specialist services are the clinical services included in the said Telehealth service.

THC hopes to go live with their Telehealth services using the EX90 device within this month while RHC's device is due to arrive before the end of the week.



US govt to oppose Guanlao request for stay of dismissal of lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com

The U.S. government will oppose Amalia Abo Guanlao's motion for a stay pending appeal of U.S. District Court for

the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood's order that dismissed her petition that seeks to appeal the immigration removal order against her.

U.S. Department of Justice Office of Immigration trial at-

torney Adrienne Zack has informed the District Court that the U.S. government will file their opposition to Guanlao's motion by Monday, July 23.

Guanlao is a Filipino mother of two minor U.S. children who

has been fighting against a 2013 immigration court's order of her removal from the U.S.

In opposition to the U.S. government's motion to dissolve the stay of Guanlao's removal that U.S. District Court for the

NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona entered in June 2016, Guanlao moved for a stay of Tydingco-Gatewood's dismissal order of June 19, 2018.

Zack said in so moving, Guanlao, through counsel implicitly acknowledges that Tydingco-Gatewood's dismissal order dissolved Manglona's stay of removal.

"If the June 2016 stay of removal remained in place, there would be no need to stay the 2018 order pending an appeal," Zack said.

Therefore, Zack said, the U.S. government requests the court to enter an order expressly dissolving the stay of removal entered in June 2016.

Guanlao, through counsel Rosemond B. Santos, has asserted that whatever the decision the District Court reached in her case will be an important ruling on a question affecting nonresident worker's due process rights.

Santos said Guanlao's case presents a unique challenge between clear violations of due process and the immigration administrative process requirements.

Guanlao is appealing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit that seeks to reverse the District Court's ruling that dismissed her petition for a writ of habeas corpus. The peti-

tion seeks to appeal the immigration's removal order.

Santos is moving the District Court to grant Guanlao's motion for stay of the ordered dismissal of her petition and the lifting of the stay of removal, pending an appeal of the final order to the Ninth Circuit.

Guanlao first moved to Saipan in April 1994 and has consistently remained in the CNMI for the past 24 years.

Guanlao married her husband (also a nonresident worker) in December 2000. Together they have children, ages 12 and 15 years old, who are both born in the CNMI and are U.S. citizens.

Tydingco-Gatewood dismissed last June 19 Guanlao's petition.

On June 23, 2016, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Manglona issued a stay of Guanlao's removal from the U.S.

Following Tydingco-Gate-wood's dismissal order, the U.S. government, through Zack, moved the District Court to formally lift the stay of removal because this case has been resolved.

According to court records, on Sept. 10, 2013, an immigration judge found that Guanlao was removable as an alien present without a valid immigrant visa or entry document and ordered her removed to the Philippines.







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Visitor arrivals dip 14 pct in June 2018

As projected by the Marianas June 2017. Visitors Authority, total visitor arrivals to The Marianas for the fiscal year are showing a dip compared to the same period last year at 458,960 visitors, 4.7 percent off last year's mark.

Visitor arrivals to The Marianas fell 14 percent in June 2018 compared to June 2017 in the first full month of no direct flights from Japan. Arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 47,341 visitors in June 2018, compared to 55,096 visitors received in

Arrivals from Korea dropped 14 percent to 24,018 visitors, yet the country retained >>> Arrivals just 4 pct lower its position as

the top performyear to date ing source market. This decline is largely due to fewer flights than in June 2017 from both Seoul-Incheon and Busan. T'way Air continued its daily schedule that it resumed in June and has also announced plans to operate

additional charter flights with

a combined 1,500+ seats from

the Korean Thanksgiving holiday week. Also, Jeju Air will launch daily charter flights from Aug. 3 until Sep. 2.

Arrivals

China grew 3 percent compared to June 2017 to 20,111 visitors despite strong competition from other island destinations and a pre-summer vacation slump in travel. Arrivals from China were bolstered by steady airlift and promotional activities including participation in

Shanghai World Travel Fair

and Hong Kong International Travel Expo, a Hong Kong media FAM tour, a travel blogger FAM trip, and other activities with tourism partners in May. Arrivals are anticipated to hold steady with a balance of demand and air service.

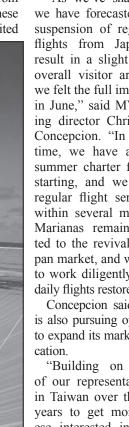
Arrivals from dropped 87 percent lower than June 2017 to 483 visitors. The decline is attributed to the pullout of direct daily flights by Delta Air Lines in early May 2018 and the sharp reduction of daily flights from Saipan to Guam for Japanese passengers arriving on United

Airlines. However, a small uptick in arrivals in anticipated with 29 summer charter flights in July and August and increased promotions of convenient connection times to Saipan from Japan via Seoul. Daily flights from Japan will be launched by Skymark Airlines in the coming months, and the MVA is in direct discussion with other airlines to operate seasonal charters during the early winter schedule.

"As we've shared before, we have forecasted that the suspension of regular daily flights from Japan would result in a slight decline in overall visitor arrivals, and we felt the full impact of that in June," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "In the meantime, we have a series of summer charter flights now starting, and we will have regular flight service again within several months. The Marianas remains committed to the revival of the Japan market, and we continue to work diligently on getting daily flights restored"

Concepcion said the MVA is also pursuing opportunities to expand its market diversifi-

"Building on the work of our representative office in Taiwan over the last few years to get more Taiwanese interested in travelling to The Marianas, we are now in negotiations with an interested airline to provide direct service from Taipei to Saipan," said Concepcion. "While most of our visitors from Taiwan have been arriving via Hong Kong or Korea, this would be a tremendous opportunity to increase arrivals from this market and provide greater stability for the tourism economy. We hope we can reach an agree-



ment soon."

Source markets economic highlights South Korea central bank data

showed that the country's economy grew at a slower pace than expected in the first quarter because of sluggish construction and facilities investment. The average USD/ WON exchange rate in June was 1087.28 won, a slight increase from the previous rate of 1075.14 won in May.

In Japan, the unemployment rate unexpectedly declined to 2.2 percent in May of 2018 from 2.5 percent in the previous month. It is the lowest jobless rate since October 1992. Bank of Japan left its key short-term interest rate unchanged at -0.1 percent at its June 2018 meeting, which was widely expected. (PR)



Bill lifts payment requirement for CHCC credit

REPORTER

A House of Representatives committee supported a Senate bill that lifts the payment requirement of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. when it adopted the bill for House passage Wednesday during a meeting.

The House Ways and Means committee Wednesday discussed and adopted Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar's (R-Saipan) Senate Bill 20-58 unanimously. The bill lifts

'State Directory of New Hires' to be discussed in SHRM meeting

The Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter invites its members, associated HR and management staff, and interested members of the public to attend its next general membership meeting on Thursday, July 26, 2018.

NMI SHRM will have assistant attorney general Bobbi Cepeda provide information on reporting requirements under Public Law 20-60, which created the "State Directory of New Hires" and on the processing of income withholding orders for child support. The new law came into effect in June 2018.

This lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret on Thursday, July 26, 2018, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

The presentation is open to the public and will provide invaluable information for employers, managers, and HR professionals and staff. The presentation includes the PIC lunch buffet at the cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by e-mail at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt. com or by telephone at 323-5867/68.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. It serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The NMI chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, you can visit their website at http:// nmichapter.shrm.org. (PR)

the corporation to the Commonwealth government.

CHCC, who has a credit line with the Marianas Public Land Trust, would not be required to pay the remainder if S.B. 20-58 is enacted. Ways and Means chair Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) in Wednesday's meeting noted that MPLT held the position that lifting the payment requirement of

the payment requirement for CHCC was inconsequential CHCC should repay the line of to the agency.

> "It is inconsequential to them because it is money that would have left MPLT [to go into] the general funds," Demapan said after reading to the committee MPLT's comments.

In an interview, Demapan noted that the bill effectively removes the repayment provision.

"There is a repayment provision in existing law that credit to the government," said Demapan. The line of credit is interest earned by MPLT, which is then transferred into the general funds.

"Under the current structure, CHCC, when they draw down from the line of credit, have to repay it back to the government. Repaying the government for interest that is transferred to the government and then appropriated back

to CHCC is kind of [redundant]," he added.

According to Demapan, the intent of the bill was to remove the redundancy and help provide financial relief to CHCC by lifting the obligation from their books, to which he noted that a remaining balance of \$2.8 million remains.

"It's almost as if we are appropriating the money to CHCC anyway," said Demapan, clarifying that the remaining balance of \$2.8 million would be written off of CHCC books if the bill is enacted.

"... At the end of the day, the money is within the same government," Demapan said, adding that if the goal was to help CHCC improve healthcare services, then the committee supports the bill.

The committee adopted the bill unanimously and would be discussed on the House floor in a future session.

Int'l Festival of Cultures also celebrates islands' diversity

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion said this coming September's International Festival of Cultures will also highlight the islands' diversity.

The three-day celebration, which will be held from Sept. 21 to 23 at the Paseo de Marianas, will feature the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian cultures; the culture of the rest of Micronesia like Palau, Marshall Islands; Polynesia,

Hawaii, Samoa; and some of the Asian cultures that have thrived in the Commonwealth like Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Philippines, Bangladesh, and many others.

Concepcion also booths representing each cul-

Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae, and the ture and promoting and educating on "what there culture is all about" to the

> CNMI community. "Some of them serve food, sell food, some of them do arts and crafts, and some of them do performances,"

Last year, the tures was held at the Garapan

he added.

Fishing Base where 11 different cultural communities exhibited their traditional customs such as food, clothing, and adornments.

Concepcion said the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture Arts Council will be collaborating with MVA for the event.

"They are tasked with arts and culture so they will be obviously supporting this event," he said. (Fahim Uddin)





COMMUNITY BRIEFS

7 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged seven Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Affected sites include Central Repair Shop, Hyatt Hotel, Imperial Pacific (Samoa Housing), Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach, Grotto Cave, and Hidden Beach.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's

recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (PR)

Rota beach redflagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged West Harbor Marina on Rota and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Rota's recreational beaches and storm

drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (PR)

MLSC seeks donations for school supplies project

Micronesian Legal Services Corp. is accepting cash or in-kind donations as part of its annual project to provide school supplies to needy children in the CNMI.

New school supplies or cash donations may be dropped off at MLSC's Marianas Office in the VS Sablan Building, Chalan Piao (same building as the Subway sandwich shop).

Checks may be dropped off or mailed to us at PO Box 500826, Saipan, MP 96950 or you may call MLSC at 234-7729 and they will pick-up donations.

MLSC hopes to deliver at least 100 new backpacks with

supplies to children in lowincome households. MLSC identifies needy children from its work and from referrals made by Karidat Social Services and others.

MLSC is a 501(c)(3) organization, so your generous donations are tax-deductible. (PR)

VA direct loan program outreach on July 24

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp., in collaboration with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, will be conducting outreach services regarding VA Native American Direct Loan Program for all the CNMI veterans. A representative from the Department of Veterans Office will be present to answer any questions regarding the program. The outreach will be held on July 24, 2018, at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan from 9am to 11:30am. For more information you may contact the NMHC Mortgage and Credit Division staff at (670)234-6866/9447/7670 or you may email Ms. Cherie Castanares, VA Representative, at cherie. castanares@va.gov or contact her at (808)433-0483. (PR)

Lower Base Transfer Station, Marpi Landfill closed on Saturday

In observance of the 2018 Lib-

eration Day parade, the Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill will be closed at 1:30pm on Saturday, July 21, 2018. However, both facilities will open through lunch (11:30am-12:30pm). Normal operations will resume on Monday, July 23, 2018. (PR)

MHS SY 2019 student orientations schedule

Marianas High School will be conducting their school year 2018-2019 Student Orientations. Schedules are as follow:

- Incoming freshmen and new transfer students (all grade levels): Aug. 8, 2018, 9am-12pm - School Gym
- Ongoing Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors: August 9, 2018 . 9am-11am -School Gym

Registration is ongoing. Students will need to furnish a copy of their birth certificate, an updated health certificate, an updated student insurance, a copy of their 8th grade diploma (incoming freshmen), an official transcript (if transferring from another high school) along with a completed registration form. Last day to register will be on July 26, 2018. (PR)

NMHC voucher program list to open July 23

Pursuant to Section 5.1[1] of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.'s Section 8 Administrative Plan, this is to inform the general public that NMHC is opening its Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program's (HCVP) waiting list starting July 23, 2018. The waitlist will remain open until it reaches its maximum number of applicants. Interested families may pick up an application at the NMHC Main Office on Saipan or the Field Offices on Tinian and Rota, or visit our website at www.nmhcgov.net to download an application. Please submit your application in person at the NMHC Main Office on Saipan or the Field Offices on Tinian and Rota, from Monday through Friday (except holidays) between 8am and 4pm. NMHC is not accepting on-line submission of applications as of this time.

- NMHC Main Office Monday-Friday 8am-4pm
- Tinian Field Office
- Monday-Friday 8am-4pm ■ Rota Field Office

Monday-Friday 8am-4pm

NMHC Housing specialists will review the applications and formally contact applicants to schedule an eligibility appointment. For more information, please contact NMHC at telephone numbers 234-6866 or 234-9446 (Saipan), 433-9213 (Tinian), or 532-9410 (Rota). (PR)



- Two years warranty from purchase date. (PARTS AND LABOR SPLIT TYPE AIRCON)
- (TARIS AND AUGH STATIFF AIRCON)

 2. One Year Warranty from date (Parts & Labor) Window Type, Refrigerator / Washing Machine

 3. Free basic installation. (15Ft of co tubing & electrical)

- FREE REMOTE CONTROLLER REPLACEMENT (IF BROKEN) 6. NO Cleaning servicing included

- Need power supply/ drop line for each A/C unit. (BEFORE A/C INSTALLATION)
 Disconnect box / elect breaker. Not included.
 Concrete slab for out-door unit (if needed) not included.
 NOTE/REM: OVER BASIC INSTALLATION LABOR & MATERIAL (S) IS NOT
- INCLUDED IN THIS QUOTE.



Located on Middle Rd (next to McDonald's)

6am to 6pm Daily | Phone (670) 234-7300

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2018 **11**





High school students, from left, Rowena Tanganan, Kaelah Biloh, and Faith Toves select herbs in a sustainable agriculture training session with the UOG Center for Island Sustainability.



UOG Center for Island Sustainability Research Associate Raymond Shinohara shares a lesson on food security with high school students enrolled in UOG's Upward Bound program.

College-bound students get hands-on agricultural experience at UOG-CIS



ing in the UOG Green Garden at the Center for Island Sustainability.

High school students engage in hands-on community service train-

More than 60 high school students received hands-on agricultural training with the University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability (CIS) on July 18 through UOG's Upward Bound program. The Upward Bound program is designed to motivate and prepare low-income or first-generation college students to pursue a college education.

The agricultural opportunity at CIS was the start of a new STEM partnership between the two organizations.

"We want the kids to have a hands-on experience something that they could also practice at home long term and benefit not just the community, but themselves as well," said Vivian Valdes, Educational Specialist Advisor for Upward Bound.

The students volunteered at the center's UOG Green Garden, where they learned sustainable agricultural practices and planted more than 60 "earth buckets," or plants designated for community food distribution.

"With each earth bucket, the students learned how to properly grow and care for an assortment of vegetables and

herbs," said Raymond Shinohara, CIS research assistant. "In turn, we're improving our island's food security."

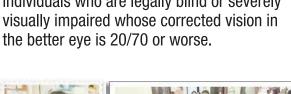
The University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability was established in 2009 to lead and support the transition of island communities toward a sustainable future. CIS has since become a focal institute in the region for adapting and modeling sustainable technologies to meet island needs in the broader areas of the environment, economy, society, and education. Learn more about CIS by visiting www. uog.edu/cis.

The University of Guam Upward Bound Program is designed to help college-bound high school students who are low-income or will be firstgeneration college students. It aims to provide the students the skills and motivation necessary to enroll in college immediately after graduating high school. The program is 100 percent federally funded and is managed through UOG's TRiO office for economically and educationally disadvantaged students. Learn more at www.uog.edu/trioprogram/upward-bound. (PR)



INDEPENDENT LIVING OLDER BLIND PROGRAM (ILOB)

Independence The ILOB Program serves individuals who are legally blind or severely individuals whose corrected vision in



















CHECKLIST

Vision-Impaired

55 Years or Older

Goal: To live independently as much as possible

Our federally-funded **ILOB Program**

provides independent living services to individuals with visual impairment ages 55 years and older to assist them in maintaining their independence at home and in their communities.

For more information or to apply for services: Call 322-6537/8 or visit us at: ovrgov.net



Independent candidate from precinct 4 files candidacy



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Independent candidate Sheila Therese Jack Babauta files her candidacy at the Commonwealth Election Commission yesterday morning.

Sheila Therese Jack Babauta filed her candidacy as an independent at the Commonwealth Election Commission yesterday morning. She hopes to represent the people of precinct 4 in the House of Representatives, 21st CNMI Legislature.

Surrounded by supportive family, friends, and voters, Babauta says she is excited for this upcoming election as voters will have more options to choose from.

"I am young, passionate, and ready to serve my islands on a larger platform. Our strength is in the community, and with your vote of confidence, I will continue to work with the community to improve our villages and raise our children in a safe and healthy environment."

Babauta's vision for precinct 4 is based on the values of "Respect, Integrity, Service, and Empowerment" or RISE. She defines RISE as "Respect for our land, culture, and community through planned development. Integrity through transparent, regular, and accessible communication. Service through opportunities for our village residents that strengthen community relationships and the heart of our villages. Empowerment through education that supports our youth, health and well-being, small business, and higher education programs."

After receiving encouragement from her family and peers to run this election, Babauta is humbled to submit her candidacy for the precinct that

raised her. "It is time we take responsibility and do our part to contribute to a better CNMI. It is time we RISE together."

Babauta is a Saipan native and board member of the Marianas Young Professionals organization and the Million Dollar Scholars Program.

In Babauta's role as a board member, she was instrumental in planning the annual MY-Pros March for H.E.R.S. during Women's Month, and the Scholars Beach BBQ where mentors shared educational experiences with young scholars. Additionally, Babauta is an active member of the Talaabwogh Star Association as co-captain for the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer.

Babauta holds bachelor's degrees in Finance and International Business from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

She completed two internships with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management & UMEE Honolulu and was inducted to three honor societies: Golden Key International HS, Phi Theta Kappa HS, and Beta Gamma Sigma International HS before graduating with honors in 2011.

Babauta continued her career in financial management with Raymond James Financial Services in Washington before returning home in 2016.

To learn more about Babauta's priorities or for more information, contact Sheila Babauta at sbabauta2018@gmail.com or 287-8151. (PR)



14 FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Blame Trump, not ICE, for immigration nightmare

emocrats are playing into President Donald Trump's hands by their calls to abolish ICE.

Demanding the elimination of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency may feel good. But it misses this key point: ICE is merely enforcing Trump policies that regard every immigrant as a security threat.

And, oh, by the way, ICE doesn't just enforce immigration. Bay Area residents should recognize that ICE is one of the primary federal agencies responsible for combating human trafficking, which is a serious California issue. ICE also is charged with slowing the intellectual property theft that costs the tech industry billions every year.

The real problem is Trump and the bully he picked to head up ICE.

The protests against the president's zero tolerance policy should continue. But the focus needs to shift. It's a simple matter of power. Protesters must concentrate their efforts on flipping the House and Senate in November and then electing a president in 2020 who will put ICE's priorities in order.

Trump and Republicans see the current immigration debate as a winning political issue. The GOP leadership made that clear last week when they vowed to bring Democratic legislation to abolish ICE to the House floor for a vote. San Jose Rep. Zoe Lofgren points out that Republicans see it as a way to foster further division in the country and claim that Democrats are for open borders.

But it isn't Democrats who have separated more than 2,000 children from their families. Nor is it Democrats who abandoned the Dreamers, arguing that the Dream Act's young recipients were taking jobs from citizens.

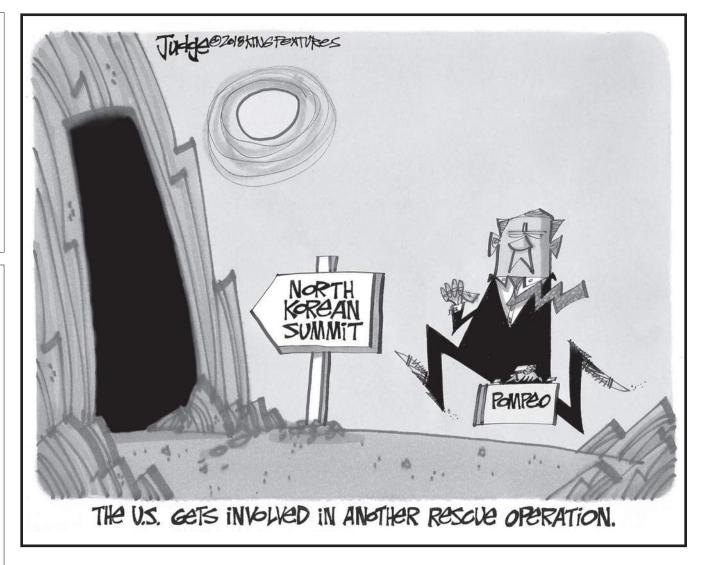
The calls to abolish ICE mushroomed in recent weeks in the wake of the appalling separation of families at the United States-Mexico border. They really caught fire after liberal challenger Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez ran on the issue and upset New York Rep. Joe Crowley in a New York primary. On Thursday, Reps. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash. and Adriano Espaillat, D-N.Y., introduced their legislation to terminate ICE and transfer its functions to other agencies. They now say they'll vote against their own legislation if House Speaker Paul Ryan calls for a floor vote.

ICE is a relatively new agency, established in 2003 after the 9/11 attacks. Under the Obama administration, ICE's primary focus was removing undocumented immigrants who were guilty of serious crimes. But Trump earlier this year changed that approach, calling for massive raids of thousands of undocumented immigrants, regardless of whether they had a criminal history.

ICE doesn't patrol the U.S. borders. That job goes to Customs and Border Protection. But ICE is responsible for housing adult detainees, and the Trump administration should have a system in place to reunite parents and their children in a timely fashion.

Some immigrants have serious criminal histories and need to be deported. But most immigrants are in this country because the United States depends on them to provide critical labor. Abolishing ICE won't prevent Trump from persisting in his senseless approach to immigration. That requires either a new president or a Congress that will stand up for a more sensible approach to immigration issues.

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Fatal existential fiscal issues

hen more than a fourth of the work force is earning poverty and below level income any tidings of an improving economy stirs hopeful talk of eventual help.

Unfortunately, the net result is usually endless frustrated discussion. Issues raised though are legitimate concerns relating to income as working families.

By standard economic theory wages are supposed to increase concurrently what with the supposed improvement. But wage stagnation persists. What's the cause of the delay of over 20 years?

Now legislators look at paying back denied within grade increases nearly 18 years ago. Does the measure include private sector employees skipped all along? Shouldn't they be included or why the constant reward to the less productive sector over hardworking employees outside? Wouldn't the \$4 million include taxes paid by private sector employees? So why exclude them?

It brings another critical issue to the table: use of the composite price index to determine income and cost of living. There's the obvious missing link in the use of the CP: the glaring fact that everything here is imported from fuel for CUC to food for the family table. Shouldn't this play a key role in how the CP is set?

Power plants across the country simply truck fuel to their facilities because the state or nearby state produces oil. It isn't imported from across the sea. Our fuel is imported after it suffers inclusion of additional fees for being lumped together with the fuel demands of China and other Asian countries.

Is the delay a case of employees receiving better fringe benefits while signing bonuses? Eh, these may have economic value but they don't boost wages. Did you get that pal? How soon could you get your act together so fairness is achieved?

Be that as it may, our unfunded liability is rather huge not to mention CHC being \$13 million in the hole. And we're still saddled with obligations like the costly medical referral program that runs up a bill of more than \$13 million per year. Economic improvement for who?

Lesson: Remember when Nippon investments walked with their luggage to jet ways in recent past? Have we recovered from the loss of about \$7 billion that once was recycled locally?

This came shortly after 1993 when we informed the U.S. House Subcommittee on Appropriations that we no longer need grant funds from the U.S. Congress. We boasted that we could pay for infrastructural and other needs on our own. Perhaps we spoke a bit too early!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



Somehow, we dropped the ball in our partnership with investors from the Land of the Rising Sun. As a result, they sold most every infrastructure they've built here since the midsixties and left.

The existential threat of major exogenous investors walking with their luggage to jet ways is woefully troubling. It included the termination of air services like Japan Airlines. Delta Airlines pulled out earlier this year leaving the Japan market without direct service.

Dazed, if not, disoriented, or both, we quiz what triggered the shutter of major investments from Japan. How do we re-establish trust so we begin rebuilding the economy of the NMI founded on lasting partnership? It's all a matter of political maturity!

Increase: With fiscal challenges, appalling how in their infinite wisdom Da Boysis increased their salaries by 80 percent! Wow! Why would you pad your wallets when CHC is \$13 million in the hole?

In FY`19 (begins October of this year) is the depletion date of money from the casino law for the retirement program. It needs between \$45-\$60 million annually to ensure retirees are handed their paychecks after FY`19. What would be the source of fund for this obligation?

Poverty: If anything, politicians must come to terms with the message in a certain report that says 65 percent of our people are under poverty.

It's a large group that doesn't have the benefits of health insurance much less the means to meet basic needs daily. It means they can't pay for healthcare services. Reiterating: This is 65 percent of our people stock in the pits of hardship standing helplessly in poverty!

It's time for some mature disposition of scarce resources or legislation so designed to uplift their quality of life. Hardship condition forced upon them isn't any definition of quality of life unless you're completely physically blind! Did you get that pal?

Aggravated battery

n the almighty age of the automobile, it's a cultural ritual to, on occasion, sit under a shade tree, wipe our hands on a greasy rag, and talk about cars.

Today is one such day. I want to talk about batteries.

They can be really problematic these days, but, since they are one of the only remaining elements the average car owner can maintain and replace on their own, we might as well embrace

Saipan's tropical setting imposes an extra burden on batteries, since hot climates are hard on them.

Modern cars, laden with all sorts of electronics, impose burdens, too. These electronics can suck juice even when a car isn't running. I've seen a few cars that can't even sit for two weeks without being run down by the "parasitic" or "vampire" draw of the electronics.

Furthermore, I have read about (but have not personally dealt with) cars that can develop problems if battery power is lost. A website that seems to have good information on this topic in specific, and car stuff in general, is "aa1car.com." If you poke around the site you'll see several sections dedicated to battery matters, including mention of a few makes and models of vehicles that are said to have problems if battery power is lost.

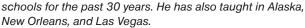
One common work-around for such problems when you're replacing the car battery is to plug a "battery saver" (typically powered by a 9-volt battery) into the cigarette lighter or power port before disconnecting the old battery. I tried this once, just to keep my pickup truck's radio from losing its settings. I must have done something wrong because it didn't work. I didn't care. But if I did care, I'd do a little research so I could be more deliberate about things.

I've been going through car batteries at a pretty high clip lately, probably because I let some cars sit for a long time, while others get shaken up from off-road forays. But, whatever the reason, I know that doing curbside battery changes is, for me, a permanent chore in life.

LITERARY NOOK By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public



Fire and devils in hell sinking with evils

"The mind is a universe and can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven."—John Milton (1608 -1674)

Many times have I lied straight face to you all without thinking twice without a trace of shame a deliberate devious devil unafraid of hell's flame changing words 'would' and 'wouldn't' is my latest call with my pal Putin prevarication is my middle name fabricating falsehoods and truth I'm ready for a fall at the core of my being a deep seated evil I am I sink down in Helsinki walking hallways of hell finding doors that tell truth I shut them with a slam murderous dictator friend Putin has me under his spell fanning flames of mistrust and distrust is my daily work I continue to learn better how the truth not to tell my tortured English speech drives the world berserk I enjoy the burning smoke and fake news fires from hell.

Recorders reporters and lying disorders

As the first term of my kingdom nears its end and the second term seems mine to claim with millions in new emoluments to spend about autocratic demagoguery I have no shame ves the Russian investigation still has its spies Manafort, Flynn, and others guilty to the bone now more damning evidence from Cohen's cell phone while fellow colluders tell Mueller more lies who knew tapes and smart phones would be the way to issue executive orders and insult our allies or prevent my second term from having its first day despite my acting the fool at election campaign rallies my truth and integrity are gone about the past I lie if my staff doesn't like it kiss their WH pass goodbye

Although I had stashed 1/4-inch drive socket sets in each of my cars, they gave me a false sense of security on the batterychanging front. I ran across this earlier this month when I realized a combination wrench was what I needed. Fortunately, I was at home and I just grabbed the wrench out of my normal toolbox. Had I been on the road, though, I would have been out of luck.

Just to make sure I've got the right tool at hand, I bought an assortment of combination wrenches for all the rolling museum pieces that comprise my "motor transport" fleet. Each vehicle now has a dedicated combination wrench in the glove box in case I have to do a curbside battery replacement. It's not a consistent size across vehicles; life could never be that simple. I had to buy 10mm, 5/16-inch, 7/16-inch, and 1/2-inch wrenches.

The lack of a uniform size turned out to be a good thing, since I could buy the all the inch-based wrenches in the same little kit. As for the 10mm, though, I needed two of those, and I had to do those purchases in single-unit increments.

Outside of changing the battery when necessary, another easy do-it-yourself task is to keep the battery and associated hardware clean of contamination and corrosion. As lazy as I can be sometimes, this is one chore that's always worth doing. It takes an investment of maybe five minutes every two months or so. Car batteries have sulphuric acid in them. When it seeps out of the top, it can ride along the surface and start to bridge the gap between the terminals.

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.



This stuff is easily cleaned off with a mixture of baking soda and water. The battery terminals can be cleaned this way, too, and sometimes a bit of scrubbing with an old toothbrush helps. Even a small splash of sulphuric acid will eat a hole through clothes, and it probably won't do wonders for anyone's eyeballs, either, so a bit of caution is in order.

This is a mere matter of opinion, of course, but I think it's important to keep some sort of under-the-hood relationship with a car, even if it's very basic relationship.

I will eventually belly up to a new car. I like reading the dealer ads so I can start thinking about what to get, where to get it, and how much to budget. When that day comes, I'll also be buying one more combination wrench so I can put it in the new car's glove box. After all, as much as I like cars, I've learned to keep a wary eye on their batteries.

My trade deficit with grocery stores and the local laundry

nspired by President Donald Trump's insistence that all U.S. trading partners buy as much from us as we do from them, I have been trying to apply the concept to my per-

I've got a problem with my local grocery chains, Aldi and Publix. I buy lots of groceries from them, but they don't buy any of the lectures or writing that I do for a living. The balance of trade is horrible. I am thinking about speaking to the managers at both places and asking, if not demanding, that they arrange for me to deliver some lectures on the economy in their stores.

Darn it. I have a similar problem with the local laundry and drug stores. I regularly have prescriptions filled and clothes cleaned. But do they ever offer to buy a policy analysis or lecture from me? Never!

Of course, there are others that buy a lot more from me than I do from them. I have a positive balance of trade with George Mason University and Elliott-Davis, PLC, a regional accounting firm. Both employ me for lectures and research, even though I don't buy anything from them. That's the way it should be with all my suppliers

But what if Aldi, Publix, the laundries and drug stores turn a deaf ear to my demand that they bring my trade deficit with them into balance? What if they just look at me like I am crazy when I tell them that they should buy as much from me as I do from them?

If that happens, I suppose I could demand that they raise their own prices. Yes, I'll show them. Better yet, why not place my own tariff on their goods? For every dollar I spend, I'll throw a quarter down the storm drain outside, making products 25 percent more expensive (at least for me). And of course, I will buy less as a result.

By BRUCE YANDLE

Tribune News Service

Bruce Yandle is a distinguished adjunct fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and dean emeritus of the Clemson University's College of Business and Behavioral Sciences.



Buying less means that I will have to plant a garden, dry clean my own clothes, and find some way to get by with fewer prescriptions. Maybe aspirin will help. Of course, this will leave me with less time to lecture and do research, which means that my income will fall

But so what! I will have made progress in bringing the various personal trade accounts that I'm currently "losing" with my preferred suppliers into balance—or better yet into a surplus. And I will have proven that these big suppliers can't push me around. They will see that I can produce food, too, that I can wash and iron, and that I might even be able to substitute exercise for heart medicines.

Of course, I will be poorer and so will they. In fact, if everyone balanced their trade accounts, we would all be poorer.

Maybe this is the lesson that our president is trying desperately to teach us. By placing tariffs on goods from suppliers who sell us more than we sell them, and having us suffer the consequences, he is generously teaching us that we will all be better off, collectively, in a world where trade is free.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Super Bowl of fishing tournaments in Marianas

On behalf of the Saipan Fishermen's Association, I would like to say thank you to our sponsors for all the support given for this

what allows the SFA to put on this great tournament and make it so successful.

Word has spread throughout the Marianas that this is the "Super Bowl" of fishing tournaments in the Marianas. This is all because of the participants, sponsors, volunteers, and members of the Saipan Fishermen's Association and let's not forget the spectators that line the dock waiting to see the big fish come in.

This year was a record year with 20 boats from Guam and I am sure we will see another big turnout from Guam next year. We also had a team from as far away as Pohnpei.

We had a high turnout of local fishermen who are already talking about their game plan for next year's 35th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament and what it will take to get their name memorialized on the big trophies.

Next year we will be hosting the 15th Annual Mahi Mahi Derby, sometime in March/April and our milestone 35th Annual

Saipan International Fishing Tournament in July. The exact dates will be published as we move closer towards these months.

In the meantime, please visit our website and Facebook page The enthusiasm and generous donation are a very big part of and enjoy all the pictures and post from this year's tournament. If anyone has pictures of a catch they would like to show off, feel free to tag our Facebook page. This is not limited to just trolling pictures we have pictures of casting, bottom fishing, spearfishing and talaya. These pages are for all of our local fishermen, fisherwomen and youth to be part of and enjoy.

https://www.facebook.com/sfacnmi/

http://www.sfacnmi.com/

Again thank you to all our participants, sponsors, volunteers and spectators. Please see our thank you ad for a list of all of our fantastic sponsors and please patronize their businesses.

See you next year for the 35th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament

Fish On!

Gene Weaver

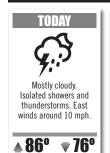
President

Saipan Fishermen's Association

16 FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN





▲ 86° ▼76°





₹77°

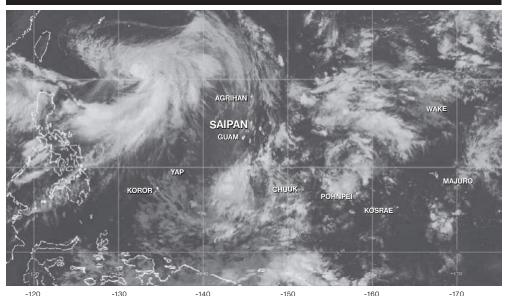
▲ 87°



YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE

▼76°

▲ 87°



PICTURE TIME: 7:17 AM, THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The next day or so looks relatively dry, then the forecast turns wetter. The models continue to have differences with timing, as a weak circulation between Chuuk and Guam approaches for the end of the week into the weekend. The ECMWF suggests there could be a period of scattered showers as early as Friday night, with most of the rest of the guidance holding off until Saturday night. For now, left the forecast unchanged. Thunder returns to the forecast by Friday night as well and the threat continues into the weekend. Will have to watch later model runs to see if adjustments to timing of the scattered showers will be necessary.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESI	A	▲ ▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 75°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 75°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°

Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	
AROUND TH	E GLOBE	▲ ♥°F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 54°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	93° / 79°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	90° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 61°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	83° / 70°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°	
Miami	Thunderstorm	87° / 81°	
New York	Sunny	83° / 69°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	97° / 81°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	82° / 63°	
Busan	Sunny	88° / 79°	
Rome	Sunny	91° / 70°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	89° / 72°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	70° / 59°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	93° / 73°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	87° / 72°	



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone

■*11 on any IT&E cellular phone

■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIP	AN HARBOR TO	DAY FEET
1:22 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.95
8:14 AM	LOW TIDE	0.50
1:59 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.41
7:45 PM	LOW TIDE	0.68

SUNRISE	SUNSET	
5:56 AM	6:50 PM	
5:56 AM	6:50 PM	
5:56 AM	6:50 PM	
5:56 AM	6:49 PM	
5:57 AM	6:49 PM	
	5:56 AM 5:56 AM 5:56 AM 5:56 AM	

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:35 PM	-	-
Saturday	-	12:39 AM	1:26 PM
Sunday	-	1:21 AM	2:17 PM
Monday	-	2:04 AM	3:08 PM
Tuesday	-	2:49 AM	3:58 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@ saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.

È-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

	DEPART			А	RRIVA	LS		
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIF	PAN		
UA117	8:45am 9:30am	Daily	U	A117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily	

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am 6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am 7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily		7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
0Z626	2:10am	6:00am	1		0Z625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
0Z626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7		0Z625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily		LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily		7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHA	I (PVG)-	SAIPAN	
3U8648 5	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)					HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1		JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4		JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

SAIPAN-	GUANGZHOU (CA	GUANGZ	HOU (CA	N)-SAIPA	N	
3U8646	4:20am 7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING	(PEK)-SA	IPAN
MU764	1:30am 6:35a	m 3, 5, 7		MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1 2, 4, 6

SAIPAN-MA	ANILA (I	MNL)		MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
0Z626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN	UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM	
0Z626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	0Z702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM	0Z702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM	
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM	
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR					

SAIPAN-HO	ONG KO	NG (HKG		HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	0Z722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
0Z626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	0Z722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
0Z626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7	
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7	
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6	
				UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

		5	TAR MARIA	NAS AIR	, INC.		
SAIPAN T	O ROTA			1204 1205	10:00AM 11:00AM	10:15AM 11:15AM	Daily Daily
FLIGHT # 1301 1302 1303	DEPARTURE 7:30AM 11:30AM 4:00PM	8:00AM 12:00PM 4:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	1205 1206 1207 1208 1209	12:00PM 1:00PM 2:00PM 3:00PM	12:15PM 1:15PM 2:15PM 3:15PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily
ROTA TO FLIGHT#	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1210	4:00PM 5:00PM	4:15PM 5:15PM	Daily Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily		O SAIPAN		
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	FLIGHT#	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
ROTA TO	GUAM			2102 2103	7:30AM 8:30AM	7:45AM 8:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT # 3401	DEPARTURE 12:15PM	ARRIVAL 12:45PM	FREQUENCY Daily	2104 2105	9:30AM 10:30AM	9:45AM 10:45AM	Daily Daily Daily
GUAM TO	ROTA			2105	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT # 4301	DEPARTURE 1:00PM	ARRIVAL 1:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily	2107 2108	12:30PM 1:30PM	12:45PM 1:45PM	Daily Daily
SAIPAN T	O TINIAN			2109 2110	2:30PM 3:30PM	2:45PM 3:45PM	Daily Daily
FLIGHT # 1201 1202 1203	DEPARTURE 7:00AM 8:00AM 9:00AM	ARRIVAL 7:15AM 8:15AM 9:15AM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	2111 2112 2113	4:30PM 5:30PM 6:30PM	4:45PM 5:45PM 6:45PM	Daily Daily Daily

JKPL BRIEFS

Chamber group concert at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

Do you want to listen to a free mini concert? Then please head to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library to listen to Chang Woo Sohn and students from Kookmin University in South Korea! This chamber group will be performing on Friday, July 20, at 2:30pm in the Children's Room, and Tuesday, July 24, at 2:30pm in the library's main lobby. This is a free event, and is open to the public! Please bring your family and friends to enjoy what is sure to be a wonderful concert. (PR)

Movie Night at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

In a teens-only night, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be hosting a free movie night from 5:30pm to 8:00pm on Friday, July 19. The movie will be Independence Day, and is 2 hours and 33 minutes long, and is rated PG-13. Because the showing will be in the teen area of the library, participants are invited to bring along pillows, blankets, and comfy clothes in order to enjoy the movie. Popcorn will be provided!

Library card required to participate. To sign up, follow this link: https://goo.gl/forms/ dddhinyHjUPtWokq2, or sign up on-site in the library. Questions? Call the library at 235-READ or email emily.jkpl@gmail.com. (PR)

JKPL Library closed on **July 21, 2018**

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed on Saturday, July 21, in order to participate in the Liberation Day Parade scheduled that day. The library will reopen for regular summer hours on Tuesday, July 24, 2018. Please enjoy the parade with family and friends!

For the latest news and events, please visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/ or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. The library's summer hours are as follows (effective June 12-Aug. 4): Tuesday-Friday, 9am-5:30pm, Saturday, 9am-4pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works





MAGURO DRIVE ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Maguro Drive Road and Drainage Improvement Project**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **July 19, 2018** at Technical Services Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 7, 2018,** 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 15, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Inr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW18-IFB-018". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301. Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time August 20, 2018. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, August 20, 2018, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 20, 2018 and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than August 29, 2018. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, August 31, 2018. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on August 20, 2018.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Atroney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the

face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations §70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

Cash US Gov't Securities Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US\$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN Director of Procurement & Supply

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR Building #1263, P.O. Box 501000 C.K., Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the Division of Youth Services under the auspices of the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs will be conducting Public Hearings on the consolidated Block Grant under the authority of the S ocial Services Block Grant – Title XX on the following dates/time;

ISLAND	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Tinian	Friday, August 3, 2018	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Friday, August 3, 2018
Saipan	Wednesday, August 8, 2018	5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Wednesday, August 10, 2018
Rota	Friday, August 10, 2018	5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Friday, August 10, 2018

An electronic copy of the 2019 Consolidated Block Grant may be viewed on the links herein stated:

> DYS Website: www.dys.gov.mp DCCA Website: www.dcca.gov.mp GOVERNOR'S Website: www.gov.mp

Hard copies may also be picked up at the DYS Office located at Chalan Piao, Saipan (Joeten Bldg. adjacent Bank of Guam)

For more information, you may contact, Resel Billy at 664-2544 or via email at rbmagofna@dvs.gov.mp

/s/ Reselann T. Billy-Magofna DYS Acting Administrator

/s/ Robert H. Hunter **DCCA Secretary**



UNITED STATES

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



TICE OF COUNCIL

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 1st Quarter General Membership Meeting on July 31, 2018, from 9:45am to 11:30am at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Caladium Hall.

AGENDA

Call to Order

Roll Call II.

Review & Adoption of Agenda of July 31, 2018

Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2018

Reports

Chairperson

State Plan Committee Chairperson b.

Fiscal Committee Chairperson

Executive Director

Old Business

CIRCLES Transition Meeting

Sensitivity & Disability Awareness Presentation for CNMI Policymakers

2018 Disability Sports Fest

Benefits Planning Training

New Business

Emergency & Disaster Preparedness Awareness Campaign

Action Items

a. Ratify/Approval the Amendment to FY 2018 DD Basic Grant Budget

Ratify/Approval the Amendment of FY 2018 AT Program Grant Budget

Election of Officers

Vice Chairperson

Chairperson 2.

Miscellaneous IX.

Next Meeting X.

Adiournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41. Section 13(a) 7. the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

Efren Nicholas Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

Bordallo leads Liberation of Guam commemoration

Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) joined Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (In-MP) in leading events in Washington, D.C. to commemorate the 74th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam and the Battle for the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bordallo organized a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington National Cemetery to honor the Chamorro people of Guam who endured the occupation

>> Introduces **Occupation** of Guam Remembrance Act

during World War II and the American service members who fought to liberate the island. The congresswoman invited Irene Sgambelluri, a survivor of the occupation, to be the guest of honor and lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown in Arlington. Sgambelluri was accompanied by her son, Ralph Sgambelluri, and granddaughter, Sophia Quinata.

Bordallo also introduced the Occupation of Guam Remembrance Act (H.R.6381), to update the memorial wall at the Asan Bay Overlook of the War in the Pacific National Park to include the names of all those filed for war claims, but whose name is currently missing from the memorial wall. Her bill would also provide an opportunity for the community to include additional names of their loved ones on the memorial wall, as well as a formal mechanism



for the National Park Service to update the wall, as corrections need to be made.

"We must never forget the sacrifices made by our island's man'amko during World War II. Today, I was pleased to lead a wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery to honor the Chamorro people of Guam who endured 32 months of occupation and wartime atrocities and the American service members who fought to liberate our island in 1944. I was pleased to have Irene Sgambelluri, my dear friend and a survivor of the occupation, join me in laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown, representing all our Chamorro men and women who suffered through the war. Guam's greatest generation—our man'amko—who endured the war and survived have much to teach us. They are in my prayers today.

"I also introduced the Occupation of Guam Remembrance Act, in recognition of the atrocities endured by the Chamorro people of Guam during World War II. My bill will ensure that all those victims and survivors who submitted for war claims will have their names inscribed on the memorial wall at the Asan Bay Overlook. The memorial wall is the only national monument dedicated to the sacrifices of Guam's Chamorro people during the war. The addition of all war claimants to the memorial wall will ensure that future generations will see the names

of those who sacrificed dearly for Guam and our future."

Other distinguished guests joining Bordallo and Sgambelluri at the wreath laying ceremony include:

- General Joseph E. Dun-
- Admiral Karl L. Schul-Guard
- Lieutenant General Daniel R. Hokanson, Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau
- Sasseville, Deputy Director of
- Winski, Chief of the Army Legislative Liaison
- Kimitake Nakamura, Representative of the Embassy of Japan

ford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

- tz, Commandant of the Coast
- Major General Marc H.
- the Air National Guard ■ Major General Brian

EU-SPC launch 19 technical videos to support agricultural training

SUVA, Fiji—A series of 19 technical videos covering various aspects of agricultural training have been launched by the European Union-funded "Improving Key Services to Agriculture" (IKSA) project. The IKSA project, which is managed by the Pacific Community (SPC) has been working to support farmers in Fiji's sugar cane belt to increase and improve production of horticultural crops through the provision of enhanced research and extension, nursery development and market access.

The 16 technical training videos, which will be used by the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture to assist with agricultural training, cover areas such as soil health, pineapple production, pest control, seed production and nursery management. The videos can be viewed on the SPC YouTube channel https://www.youtube. com/playlist?list=PLCq-WnF3HdrhuNO_FYvG4rh-

The acting head of Cooperation at the Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific, Emmanuelle Guiheneuf said: "The EU is very happy that the IKSA project has been able to produce this series of 19 training videos which will support the work of the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture in providing guidance to farmers on soil health, seed production, basics of building a nursery, the application of pesticide residue and pineapple farming and so forth. Indeed, extension service is key to enhancing farmer's livelihoods. These videos will enable the Ministry to plan and deliver technical training to farmers in a very visual, clear and concise manner."

SPC director general Dr, Colin Tukuitonga said, "The 16 agricultural training videos will further enhance IKSA's work to support farmer training and development. The

project has been working closely with the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture to support farmers in the sugar cane belt areas to increase and improve the production of horticultural crops through the provision of enhanced research and extension services, nursery and farmer development, and improved market access and trade and these videos will build on this work."

The IKSA project has been working to improve and enhance agricultural services to allow sugar cane farmers to increase on-farm incomes by enhancing their supply capacities through assisting with access to seed, seedlings and farm inputs, provision of practical training through farm demonstration plots and communications, and linkages to markets. IKSA has also worked closely with the Fiji Government through the Ministry of Agriculture, to strengthen

research, extension and support services to farmers in Fiji's sugarcane belt to cushion the economic and social impacts of the restructuring of the sugar industry.

The project has enabled farmers to develop their horticultural production in communities that traditionally have a high-income dependence upon the production and harvesting of sugarcane. The community development and collaboration between farmers and service providers, such as nurseries and the Ministry of Agriculture, is growing the horticultural market and creating new income streams through increased on-farm incomes, enhanced supply capacities through access to seed, seedlings and farm inputs, provision of practical training through farm demonstration plots and communications, and linkages to markets. (PR)

■ Gunther Sales, Representative of the Embassy of the Philippines

Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), Congressman Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP). and Irene Sgambelluri, Guam War Survivor, lay a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery to commemorate the 74th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam and Battle for the Northern Mariana Islands.

- Commodore David Gibbs, Representative of the Embassy of New Zealand
- Therese Arriola, Secretary of the Guam Visitors Bureau Board of Directors
- Dee Hernandez, Cultural Heritage Officer for the Guam Visitors Bureau
- Kaemiha Muna, 2017 Guam Liberation Queen
- Mark Mendiola, chairman of the Guam Board of Education
- Jon Fernandez, Superintendent of the Guam Department of Education and residents of Guam and members of the Guam Society of Amer-

OPR issues decision on pretrial diversion complaint

Shawn N. Anderson, United States Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, announced that the Office of Professional Responsibility for the United States Department of Justice has concluded an inquiry into the pretrial diversion practices of the United States Attorney's Office in the District Court of Guam. The OPR inquiry "revealed no evidence" that the pretrial diversion decisions of the office involved any prohibited or inappropriate factors. The inquiry was initi-

ated by the District Court of Guam during sentencing proceedings for two Chinese nationals in United States v. Lu et al., No. 17-CR-00041 (D. Guam). The defendants had been arrested after arriving on Guam from Los Angeles with over 118 counterfeit credit cards from foreign banks. The defendants were charged with Possession of Fifteen or More Counterfeit or Unauthorized Access Devices, in violation of 18 U.S.C. Section 1029(a)(3), a Class C felony. The court questioned the applicability of pretrial diversion for the defendants. Diversion is an alternative to criminal prosecution that enables certain offenders to avoid traditional criminal proceedings in favor of a program of supervision and services administered by United States Probation and Pretrial Services. If the program is successfully completed, the charges against a

defendant are dismissed. The U.S. Attorney declined to offer pretrial diversion in the matters before the District Court.

In February 2018, the court announced that it would request the Department of Justice to investigate whether there was "disparate treatment" by the U.S. Attorney's Office in its handling of pretrial diversion offers. OPR reviewed the court's concerns and the relevant pretrial diversion decisions against the limits on prosecutorial discretion set forth in the Department's United States Attorneys' Manual Section 9-27.260, which prohibits prosecutors from taking into consideration a "person's race, religion, gender, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, or political association, activities, or beliefs." OPR found no evidence of unethical conduct.

Anderson states, "We appreciated the opportunity to fully cooperate with OPR and respond to the Court's concerns. Prosecutorial discretion, which includes the decision on whether pretrial diversion is appropriate in any given case, has an important function in the criminal justice system. The U.S. Attorney's Office respects the limitations on its discretion and routinely relies on the Department of Justice's guidelines in making diversion decisions. Our office will continue to consider criminal offenders for this type of disposition on a case-by-case basis." (PR)

TO COMBAT INVASIVE BROWN TREE SNAKE

Guam, CNMI, Hawaii, federal partners get \$2.8M in FY18

WASHINGTON, **D.C.**— Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs, this week announced the release of \$2,839,632 million in fiscal year 2018 grant funding to suppress and control the brown tree snake, Boiga irregularis, on Guam. The program also provides for prevention, detection, and rapid response efforts in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and Hawaii as well as related

research and development.

"The support that the U.S. Congress provides for brown tree snake interdiction is critical to suppression efforts on Guam and to prevent the spread of the brown tree snake to the CNMI, Hawaii and the greater Micronesia region," said Assistant Secretary Domenech. "The brown tree snake, which has had significant ecological and economic impacts on the island of Guam, must not be allowed to do any more damage than it has already done.'

Funding for the Brown Tree Snake Interdiction Program in FY 2018 includes:

■ CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources - \$507,383 for the CNMI Brown Tree Snake Interdiction Program which funds personnel costs for eleven employees: six on Saipan, two on Rota, one on Tinian, and two part-time positions to handle cargo inspection. The program currently conducts inspections, both canine and visual; has traps deployed around all ports of entry; and provides training for rapid-response deployment in case of snake sighting. The program has required that no less than 90 percent of incoming cargo be inspected. In 2017, over 2,300 commercial aircraft and 90 units of marine cargo were inspected.

■ Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) -\$333,786 supports the Hawaii Brown Tree Snake Interdiction Program, which maintains a multi-faceted approach to prevent the introduction of these snakes into Hawaii. Funds provide for the Hawaii Detector Dog program to detect the species on arriving aircraft, sea vessels, cargo and other regulated articles from Guam and other high-risk areas where it is established. While the state of Hawaii funds the base salaries of employees in the program, OIA funds will support the overtime costs of personnel necessary for more thorough inspections. In 2017, the HDOA inspected 98.6 percent of all high-risk arrivals.

■ Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources - \$175,000 will support the public outreach program Kontra I Kulepbla - Challenge the Snake! The goal is to encourage positive discussions in the community about efforts to suppress the brown tree snake and to restore and protect Guam's native wildlife. With the increasing effectiveness of the Aerial Bait Drop System on military lands in killing snakes, the hope is to

replicate that same success on public lands; however, support from local Guam residents will be a prerequisite.

■ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - \$341,352 funds an invasive species biologist in Saipan and supports another in Hawaii, both of whom work closely with federal and local partners to provide coordination, management, and technical assistance on various aspects of interdiction, control, and management of the brown tree snake program across the Pacific islands eco-region, most notably Hawaii, Guam, and CNMI.

■ USDA National Wildlife Research Center - \$434,725 will be used to construct an improved bait cartridge manufacturing system, and increase production of bait capsules for the Aerial Bait Drop System. Efforts to remove brown tree snakes from Guam rely on two strategies: 1) live-trapping and 2) aerial delivery of toxic bait (dead acetomephine-laced neo-natal mice). Aerial treatment of the snakes is the only practical option for landscapescale suppression in Guam's forested habitats. Improvements will ensure the system can withstand an 8-hour duty cycle and produce nearly 7,200 bait capsules per day. This remains a top priority of the Brown Tree Snake Research Committee.

■ U.S. Geological Survey - \$1,047,386 will support research projects that fall under two priorities: 1) moving towards landscape-scale suppression of brown tree snakes via aerial delivery of toxicants and 2) improving early detection and rapid response activities. The USGS brings a combination of herpetological, ecological, and analytical expertise to the program, and is uniquely placed to be able to develop new control tools, test and validate control tools developed by partner agencies, and assess the feasibility of proposed snake control efforts at various spatial scales.

The Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees Federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. OIA supports the Secretary's mission of Fulfilling Trust and Insular Responsibilities through balancing efforts and limited resources towards stronger economic and health capacities, and fiscal accountability in the U.S. insular areas. (PR)

Bordallo presses DOE to remove costly federal restrictions on GDOE

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-Guam) urged U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education Frank Brogan to remove federal "specific conditions" and other requirements on the Guam Department of

Education that are now unnecessary and burdensome. Congresswoman Bordallo also requested specifics, in writing, for how the U.S. Department of Education will act upon

GDOE's request in May that

these federal "specific condi-

tions" be reconsidered and,

This request follows a

high-level meeting today

that the congresswoman

secured for Guam Educa-

tion Board Chairman Mark

B. Mendiola, Superinten-

dent Jon Fernandez, and

senior GDOE staff with

Secretary DeVos, Assistant

Secretary Brogan, and other

senior federal staff at the

U.S. Department of Educa-

tion. On April 18, 2018, the

congresswoman secured the

first meeting between Secre-

tary DeVos and GDOE.

ultimately, removed.



Bordallo

Yesterday, Bordallo met with GDOE Superintendent Jon Fernandez, other senior GDOE staff, and Chairman Mendiola in her office, before returning to Guam.

"I am encouraged that the U.S. Department of Education's senior leadership acknowledged the significant progress made by the Guam

Department Education and is willing to reevaluate federal restrictions placed on GDOE. As the daughter of an educator and Guam public school graduate, there

is no higher priority for me than educating our island's next generation of leaders,' said Bordallo.

"GDOE funds should be spent in the classroom, not required by the federal government to be paid to offisland, outside consultants. I look forward to working with Secretary DeVos and Assistant Secretary Brogan to ensure accountability at GDOE and do away with these outdated federal restrictions. In the meantime, I continue working in Congress to secure Guam's fair share of federal funding for our schools," continued Bordallo. (PR)



NEW MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Isla Montessori School in Dandan founder Susan Book discusses a slideshow to showcase her planning on continuing Montessori education in the CNMI during the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

RMI strengthens food security measures ahead of future droughts

Communities in the remote, drought prone, northern atolls of the Republic of Marshall Islands are trying new food security measures to increase the availability of local food crops, expand the use of drought resistant crop varieties, improve soil management practices, and establish nurseries.

These efforts are part of the European Union-North Pacific-Readiness for El Niño (RENI) project, implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC). The project is a response to the severe 2015-2016 El Niño drought, and will enhance the resilience of communities to potential shocks and insecurities resulting from future droughts.

RENI has adopted a participatory approach to this project, which incorporates the rights and vulnerabilities of women and marginalized groups. National and local area consultations were held early in 2018 to ensure that the voices of local communities in RMI were heard and that the project activities address their practical needs. Following this planning process, a detailed project design document was finalized by the Government of RMI and SPC in July 2018.

Team Leader, Climate Change, Energy, and Circular Economy, Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific, Adrian Nicolae emphasized the wide-ranging benefits of the RENI project saying, "This project will not only help vulnerable communities prepare for the next drought, it will also build on existing efforts by the government of RMI, to build awareness and influence behaviors around the linkage between healthy lifestyles and the reduction of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure".

The initial food security activities of RENI will be trialed in Ailuk, a rural environment, and Santo-Kwajalein, a semiurban environment. The experiences from these trials will then be shared with residents and farmers in Enewetek, Mejit, Utrik and Wotho. Throughout the entire process SPC staff will be working closely with the RMI agencies responsible for natural resources, internal affairs and disaster management.

The SPC director general, Colin Tukuitonga, highlighted the importance of the RENI project both for RMI and the wider Pacific, "Achieving our common vision of a resilient Pacific in the face of climate change and variability requires proactive measures, close partnerships and community engagement. The RENI project will enhance the resilience of the Marshallese communities in preparation for future droughts, and serve as a model for mitigation efforts across the region".

Working closely with RMI non-governmental organizations such as Women United

Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) and the Marshall Islands Organic Farmers Association (MIOFA), RENI will establish home gardening and provide training in food preservation methods in the targeted atolls.

"The government of RMI views the RENI project as a testing ground for re-establishing food security in the northern atolls. In the past, subsistence agriculture was an important activity in the outer atolls, but has declined in recent years as a result of a general trend towards other forms of employment, combined with the availability of convenient processed food," said RMI Secretary for Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce, Ms Iva Reimers-Roberto.

El Niño will continue to bring drought conditions to RMI in the future, but with support from RENI, people living in the northern atolls will now be better prepared. (PR)

20 FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

EU fines Google a record \$5B over mobile practices

(AP)—European regulators came down hard on another U.S. tech giant Wednesday, fining Google a record \$5 billion for forcing cellphone makers that use the company's Android operating system to install Google search and browser apps.

The European Union said Google's practices restrict competition and reduce choices for consumers.

While Google can easily afford the fine, the ruling could undermine the company's business model, which relies on giving away its operating system in return for opportunities to sell ads and other products.

Google immediately said it will appeal, arguing that its free operating system has led to lower-price phones and created competition with its chief rival, Apple.

Android has "created more choice for everyone, not less," Google CEO Sundar Pichai tweeted

Google has 90 days to put remedies in place regardless of its appeal—which could involve unbundling key apps and allowing Android handset manufacturers to sell devices using altered versions of Android.

Mozilla Foundation, the non-profit group that creates the lightweight ad-blocking browser Firefox Focus, said the ruling gives it the opportunity to displace Chrome as the default browser in some phones. It has been in talks with manufacturers from Huawei to Samsung about that.

The ruling creates "a huge opportunity," Denelle Dixon, Mozilla's chief operating officer, said Wednesday.

It's also possible not much will change. Google Search, Chrome and the Play Store are popular with consumers and developers. Handset manufacturers could choose them despite unbundling.

"It's possible phone manufacturers won't actually take advantage of the newfound freedom they have," said Thomas Vinje, lead lawyer for FairSearch, the Brusselsbased lobbying group backed by Oracle, TripAdvisor and others that was the main complainant in the case. "It at least opens up the possibility."

The fine, which caps a three-year investigation, is the biggest ever imposed on a company by the EU for anticompetitive behavior.

The ruling could stoke tensions between Europe and the U.S., which regulates the tech industry with a lighter hand. Still, some U.S. politicians welcomed it.

Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut tweeted that the fine should "be a wake-up call" to the Federal Trade Commission and should lead U.S. enforcers to protect consumers. Blumenthal previously called on regulators to investigate how Google tracks users of Android phones.

In its ruling, the EU said Google broke the rules by requiring cellphone makers to take a bundle of Google apps if they wanted any at all.

The bundle contains 11 apps, including YouTube, Maps and Gmail, but regulators focused on three that had the biggest market share: Google Search, Chrome and the company's app store, called Play Store.

The EU also took issue with Google's payments to wireless carriers and phone makers to exclusively pre-install the Google Search app.

It ruled, too, that Google broke the law by forcing manufacturers that took its apps to commit to not selling devices that use altered versions of Android.

Regardless of the pending appeal, failure to come up with remedies to rectify the behavior after 90 days risks a further penalty of up to \$15 million a day.

EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said that given the size of the company, the 4.34 billion euro fine is not disproportionate.

The Google crackdown comes at a sensitive time for trans-Atlantic relations, with President Donald Trump lambasting the EU as a "foe" only last week. The U.S. imposed tariffs on EU steel and aluminum this year, and the EU responded with duties on American goods.

Auto industry cries foul as Trump moves toward car tariffs

WASHINGTON (AP)— Having started a trade war with China and enraged U.S. allies with steel tariffs, President Donald Trump is primed for his next fight. He is targeting a product at the heart of the American experience: cars.

Trump's latest plan is to consider slapping tariffs on imported autos and auto parts—a move he says would aid American workers but that could inflate car prices, make U.S. manufacturers less competitive and draw retaliation from other nations.

The action has also begun to provoke a backlash among member of Congress, who have so far been reluctant to challenge Trump policies that are upending decades of U.S. policies.

On Thursday, manufacturers, suppliers, car dealers and foreign diplomats will line up to testify at a Washington hearing to try to head off auto tariffs. After the hearing, the Commerce Department will decide whether to label imported vehicles and auto parts a threat to America's national security and whether to recommend tariffs to the president.

In announcing the auto investigation in May, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross had said, "There is evidence that, for decades, imports from abroad have eroded our domestic auto industry.'

Yet even General Motors, which ostensibly would benefit from a tax on its foreign competition, is opposed to Trump's plan.

And even considering the administration's trade war with China over Beijing's predatory practices in hightech industries and even after imposing tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from America's closest allies. Trump's auto tariffs raise the ante substantially: The U.S. last year imported \$192 billion

in vehicles and \$143 billion in auto parts-figures that dwarf the \$29 billion in steel and \$23 billion in aluminum imports and the \$34 billion in Chinese goods the administration has so far hit with tariffs.

"This is really taking it up one gigantic notch," said Mary Lovely, a Syracuse University economist who studies trade. "I do think it may be a bridge too far."

In the Senate, Democrat Doug Jones of Alabama and Republican Lamar Alexander of Tennessee have announced plans to introduce legislation opposing Trump's proposed 25 percent auto tariffs. Both warned that the tariffs threaten tens of thousands of jobs in their states.

"Foreign automobiles and auto parts are not a threat to our national security," Jones said. "But you know what is a threat? A 25 percent tax on the price of these imported goods."

Nation



In this July 12, 2017 file photo, FBI Director nominee Christopher Wray testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

FBI Director Wray says Russia continues to sow discord in US

ASPEN, Colo. (AP)—FBI Director Christopher Wray said Wednesday that Russia continues to use fake news, propaganda and covert operations to "spin up" Americans on both sides of hot-button issues to sow discord in the United States.

Wray stood behind the intelligence agencies' assessment that Moscow meddled in the 2016 presidential election, dismissing Russian President Vladimir Putin's claim that his country was not involved.

"He's got his view. I can tell you what my view is," Wray said at the opening event of the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado. "The intelligence community's view has not changed. My view has not changed."

Wray spoke after a day of controversy in Washington over whether President Donald Trump accepts the intelligence agencies' assessment and whether he believes Moscow is continuing to try to influence American elections or threaten the nation's infrastructure.

Wrav also dismissed Putin's offer to allow the U.S. access to 12 Russian military intelligence officers who have been indicted on charges of interfering in the election in return for being able to interview Americans the Kremlin has accused of unspecified crimes.

The White House said it was under consideration. Wray dismissed the offer.

"I never want to say never about anything," Wray said, "but it's certainly not high on our list of investigative techniques.'

Much of the conversation with Wray, which was moderated by NBC's Lester Holt, focused on Russia.

"Russia continues to engage in malign influence operations to this day," Wray said.

He said that while U.S. officials have not yet seen an effort by Russia to target specific election systems, it is aggressively engaged in influence operations to sow

discord and divisiveness in America. "To me, it's a threat that we need to take very serious and respond to with fierce determination," Wray said.

He said the Russians identify divisive issues, and through covert and overt operations, fake news and propaganda, they "spin people up on both sides of an issue and then kind of watch us go after each other."

Russia isn't the only country threatening the U.S., Wray said.

He said he thinks China, from a counterintelligence perspective, represents the broadest and most significant threat America faces. China wants to replace the United States as the most powerful economic engine in the world and is infiltrating American businesses to get an edge.

"We have economic espionage investigations in all 50 states" that can be traced back to China, Wray said. "It covers everything from corn seeds in Iowa to wind turbines in Massachusetts and everything in between.

Irump talks tougher, now says he warned Putin on meddling

(AP)— WASHINGTON President Donald Trump spent a second day Wednescriticized meeting with Russia's Vladimir Putin, shifting stances and mopping up what the White House said were misstatements.

His toughness with the longtime American foe in question, Trump said he told the Russian president face-toface during Monday's summit to stay out of America's elections "and that's the way it's going to be."

That rhetoric marked a turnabout from Trump's first,

upbeat description of his sitdown with Putin. Still, Trump backtracked on whether Rusday managing the politi- sia is currently targeting U.S. cal fallout from his widely elections. When asked the question Wednesday, he answered "no," a reply that put him sharply at odds with recent public warnings from his own intelligence chief.

> Hours later, the White House stepped in to say Trump's answer wasn't what it appeared.

The zigzagging laid bare the White House's search for a path out of trouble that has dogged the administration's discussions of Russia from the start, but spiraled after Trump's trip to Helsinki.

After days of criticism from both Democrats and Republicans, Trump—a politician who celebrates his brash political incorrectness—has appeared more sensitive than usual to outside opprobrium.

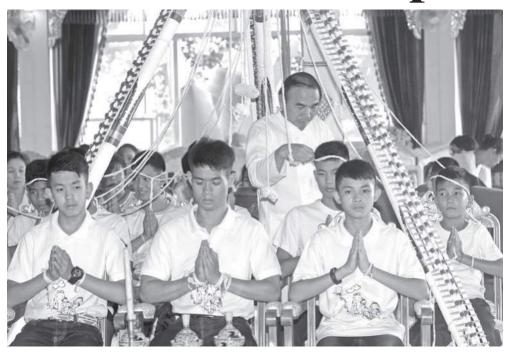
The scale of the bipartisan outcry at Trump's stance toward Putin has only been rivaled by his 2017 waffling over condemning white supremacist demonstrators in Charlottesville, Virginia.

"I let him know we can't have this." Trump told CBS News of his conversations with Putin. "We're not going to have it, and that's the way it's going to be."

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2018 **21**

Asia

Thai soccer boys pray for fortune at temple



Soccer coach Ekkapol Janthawong, second from left, and members of the rescued soccer team attend a Buddhist ceremony that is believed to extend the lives of its attendees as well as ridding them of dangers and misfortunes in Mae Sai district, Chiang Rai province, northern Thailand, Thursday, July 19, 2018.

CHIANG RAI, Thailand (AP)—The Thai soccer boys and their coach began their first day back home with their families since they were rescued from a flooded cave with a trip to a Buddhist temple on Thursday to pray for protection from misfortunes.

The 11 boys and the coach kneeled and pressed their hands in prayer to the tune of chanting monks. They were joined by relatives and friends at the Wat Pra That Doi Wao temple, overlooking Myanmar on Thailand's northern border.

The remaining member of the Wild Boars soccer team — Adul Sargon — is not a Buddhist and did not attend the ceremony, meant to extend one's life and protect it from dangers.

The team has already said they would ordain as Buddhist novices to honor a former Thai navy SEAL diver who died in the cave while making preparations for their rescue.

On Wednesday evening, the boys and coach faced the media for the first time since their ordeal, describing their surprise at seeing two British divers rising from muddy waters in the recesses of the cave. It would be another week before they were pulled out of the Tham Luang cave.

"We weren't sure if it was for real," 14-year-old Adul said. "So we stopped and listened. And it turned out to be true. I was shocked."

In one poignant and emotional moment at the news conference, a portrait was displayed of Saman Gunan, the Thai diver who died. One of the boys, 11-year-old Chanin "Titan" Vibulrungruang, the youngest of the group, covered his eyes as if wiping away a tear.

"I feel sad. And another thing is I'm really impressed with Sgt. Sam for sacrificing his life for all 13 Wild Boars to be able to live our lives outside happily and normally," he said. "When we found out, everyone was sad. Extremely sad, like we were the cause of this that made the sergeant's family sad and having to face problems."

The Wild Boars had entered the cave on June 23 for what was to be a relaxing excursion after soccer practice. But rain began, and water soon filled the cavern, cutting off their escape, and they huddled on a patch of dry ground deep inside the cave.

Coach Ekapol "Ake" Chanthawong said the trip was meant to last one hour, simply because "each of us wanted to see what was inside."

When the hour was up, they were pretty deep inside and already had swum through some flooded areas in the spirit of adventure. But in turning back, he discovered the way was not at all clear, and he swam ahead to scout the route, attaching a rope to himself so the boys could pull him back if necessary.

He said he had to be pulled out. Ekapol said he told the boys: "We cannot go out this way. We have to find another way."

The boys told reporters of their reactions at that point.

"I felt scared. I was afraid I wouldn't get to go home and

my mom would scold me, said Mongkol Boonpiam, 13, prompting laughter.

Ekarat Wongsukchan, 14, said they decided "to calm ourselves first, to try to fix the problem and find a way out. Be calm and not shocked."

The group had taken no food with them and survived by drinking water that dripped from the cave walls, Ekapol said, adding that all the boys knew how to swim, which had been a concern for rescuers.

Titan said he tried hard not to think about food. "When I'm starving, I don't think of food otherwise it'd make me more hungry."

Adul said they were digging around the spot when they heard the voices and Ekapol called for silence.

He recounted how Ekapol told them to "quickly get down there, that's the sound of a person, or else they're going to pass on by,' something like that."

But he said his teammate holding the flashlight was scared, so Adul told him "If you're not going to go, then I'll go."

"So I quickly took the flashlight, and quickly went down, and I greeted them, 'hello,'" Adul added.

Psychologists had vetted the journalists' questions in advance to avoid bringing up any aspects of the rescue that might disturb them. The dangers of the complicated operation, in which the boys were extracted in three separate missions with diving equipment and pulleys through the tight passageways, were not discussed.

World

Under Assad's grip, uneasy co-existence with ex-rebels

TALBISEH, Syria (AP)—Former rebel commander Omar Melhem has nearly come full circle.

He was a colonel in the Syrian army when the uprising against President Bashar Assad began in 2011. He defected a year later and joined the armed revolt against the Syrian leader.

Then, when Assad's forces marched into Talbiseh, he was among the rebels who handed over their weapons and agreed to a surrender deal that would allow them to stay in their hometown instead of a life of exile in the country's north.

As the Syrian government reasserts control over opposition strongholds, such co-existence between the military and former rebel fighters like Melhem is now the new reality.

The 51-year-old former rebel commander now serves as a liaison between residents and other ex-rebels with the Syrian government, helping some rejoin the military and negotiating with top security officials about services in the town.

He says war brought only death and destruction to his

town, and the deal he and other rebels reached with the government aimed to end the yearslong misery of its residents.

"People got tired of war, got tired of the fighting, got tired of the destruction. ... They've reached the conclusion that they were used by other countries, that we were a game to them," Melhem said, referring to the U.S. and other Western nations, Turkey and the Gulf states that backed the rebels, and Russia and Iran, which backed the Syrian government.

Among the first Syrian towns to take up arms against the government, Talbiseh and nearby Rastan are now part of what some call a "reconciliation" process but others consider a humiliating surrender following years of indiscriminate bombardment and siege.

Melhem is among thousands of rebels who were forced to surrender in exchange for being allowed to stay. Hundreds of other fighters refused and left with their families for rebel-held parts of northern Syria, joining tens of thousands of government opponents forced into exile.

He now carries a list of names of rebels in the town and another of all the weapons that were handed back to the government as he lobbies for better services.

At one point, Melhem complained to an army colonel about the lack of round-the-clock water and electricity supplies. The officer's response: Be patient. It's been less than two months since the town was retaken.

When Melhem said that the town's residents cooperate with those who treat them well but won't tolerate any mistreatment, the officer responded, "Are you coming here to flex your muscles?" Then they both laughed.

Both towns are mostly deserted. Talbiseh, which once had a population of 70,000, now is home to just a few thousand.

During a tour by an Associated Press team, the first by a foreign media outlet, former insurgents wandered the streets, many without jobs. They said they were banned from leaving the region and complained the Syrian government was going after them for back taxes dating to 2011.

19 dead, 25 missing as migrant boat capsizes north of Cyprus

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—Nineteen people drowned when a boat loaded with as many as 150 people who were thought to be migrants capsized off the northern coast of Cyprus, a Turkish Cypriot official said Wednesday.

Tolga Atakan, the transport minister in the breakaway north of ethnically divided Cyprus, told The Associated Press that rescue crews were searching for 25 missing passengers in an area where a passing cargo ship reported spotting people in the water.

The Turkish coast guard said it rescued 103 of the capsized vessel's passengers and took them to Turkey. One seriously injured person was being treated at a hospital in the northern part of Cyprus' capital, Nicosia, Atakan said.

Atakan said the nationalities of the passengers have not been confirmed. When asked if they were thought to be migrants, Atakan said "most probably."

Aysegul Baybars, the interior minister in northern Cyprus, told Turkey's CNN-Turk television that authorities were investigating if bad weather, sabotage or other factors caused the sinking.

She said authorities don't know where the vessel has set sail from or where it was heading.

The capsizing occurred around 16 miles (26 kilometers) north of Cyprus' Karpas Peninsula, but it's not yet clear when.

In May, nine Syrian migrants drowned when their boat capsized off Cyprus' northern coast. The United Nations' refugee agency said it was the first shipwreck involving migrants off the island nation.

Constantinos Petrides, the interior minister in the internationally recognized government of Cyprus based in the south, told The Associated Press that new arrivals have grown at an alarming pace.

The 2,500 asylum applications Cyprus received during the first half of the year puts the country alongside Greece as having the most asylumseekers per capita in the European Union, Petrides said.

He alleged that trafficking rings are bringing immigrants, mainly Syrians, by boat from Turkey to northern Cyprus.

Thousands of Europebound migrants have attempted to cross the Mediterranean Sea from North Africa this year, a dangerous journey often made in overcrowded and inadequate vessels procured by human smugglers.

The International Organization for Migration said before the Cyprus wreck that 1,443 people died or went missing this year in the Mediterranean Sea route from northern Africa as of July 15.

Friction between the Italian government and private aid groups that patrol the sea to look for people in danger ratcheted up Wednesday when a Spanish aid organization shunned an Italian port for one in Spain. Proactiva Open Arms said it found a survivor and two dead bodies from a migrant boat wreck on Tuesday, and accused Italy of complicity.

The Open Arms vessel was expected to arrive on Saturday in the port of Palma de Mallorca, said a Spanish government spokeswoman who was not authorized to be named in media reports.

22 FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Finnish brewery creates quirky beer for Trump-Putin summit

HELSINKI (AP)—A small Finnish craft brewery is paying a humorous tribute to the Helsinki summit. RPS Brewing has issued a limited-edition lager depicting cartoon U.S. and Russian presidents on its label, with text for Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin saying "Let's Settle This Like Adults" and "Making Lager Great Again."

The beer has been in high demand since it hit the shelves nationwide a few days ago and the whole 10,000-bottle lot had been sold out ahead of Monday's summit. Samples have also been delivered to the U.S. and Russian embassies in Helsinki.

CEO Samuli Huuhtanen told The Associated Press on Saturday that "a couple of good beers can help any negotiations," especially if followed by a visit to a Finnish sauna.

Hungry headache: German city seeks to evict big catfish

BERLIN (AP)—A German city is looking for a way to get rid of a giant catfish that is believed to have developed a taste for ducklings after eating all of its fellow fish in the municipal pond.

The roughly 1.5-meter (4.9-foot) fish has been making waves in Offenbach, near Frankfurt. News agency dpa reported that the city government said Monday that it has found a professional angler to catch the fish, first seen about a year ago, but a formal contract has yet to be signed.

The city plans to have its unwelcome guest caught alive and taken to a private pond somewhere, but officials will first have to be satisfied that it can't escape into flowing water and that its new home is suitable for a catfish.

Church/Parish:

San Vicente Church

San Vicente Church

San Vicente Church

San Vicente Church

Rhode Island governor to hold office hours at the beach

PROVIDENCE, **R.I.** (AP)—Rhode Island's governor says she's holding summer office hours at the beach.

Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo (ray-MAHN'-doh) will hold the first event Monday at Scarborough State Beach in Narragansett. She'll be joined by members of her Office of Constituent Services to help connect residents with various services.

While there, she plans to sign an executive order to reduce reliance on single-use plastics that can end up in the state's waters.

Raimondo says she looks forward to hosting office hours and hearing directly from residents at some of the state's most popular destinations. She plans to go to East Matunuck State Beach on July 23 and Lincoln Woods State Park on Aug. 3.

German town to hold lottery for coveted graveyard plots

BERLIN (AP)—Quiet neighbors, pristine grounds and a view to die for: No wonder graveyard plots in Berchtesgaden are in high demand.

The German news agency dpa reported Saturday that the picturesque town in the Bavarian Alps is now taking the unusual step of holding a lottery for vacant spaces in its cemetery.

For years, authorities had to turn down applicants hoping to secure a final resting place in the 17th-century graveyard due to lack of

With 200 new plots being created from unused spaces, the town has decided to stage a lottery Wednesday to ensure that everyone has an equal chance of getting a place in the

About 280 people have applied.

Michigan twins run for county seats as political opponents

KENTWOOD, Mich. (AP)—Twin sisters from western Michigan are running for county commissioner seats, but they aren't endorsing

Monica Sparks is running as a Democrat for Kent County's 12th district seat while her Republican sister, Jessica Ann Tyson, hopes to represent the 13th district.

Tyson's decision to run inspired her sister to launch her own campaign.

The sisters say they don't clash on the issues but that they'll remain loyal to their parties and endorse each other's opponents.

They told WXMI-TV that their birth mother was addicted to heroin and they were adopted into a family that taught them to be civically

When they were kids and even now, the twins say their mother never allowed them to argue about politics. Tyson says that while growing up, they didn't know which parties their parents identified with.

Bicyclist versus lift bridge. What could possibly go wrong?

MENASHA, Wis. (AP)—Police say a bicyclist who weaved past the gates blocking access to a bridge over a river in eastern Wisconsin escaped serious injury after falling into the gap that was created when the bridge started to rise.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation surveillance video shot July Fourth shows the woman ignoring the barrier and red flashing

lights at the bridge in Menasha, and apparently not noticing that it was already cranking into action.

The woman and her bike then drop into the gap and she disappears.

In the following minutes, onlookers rush to her aid and the bridge operator stalls the bridge until the woman and her bicycle are extracted.

Police say the 37-year-old woman was taken to a hospital in Neenah where she was treated for facial injuries.

Poison parsnip causes severe burns, blisters on woman's legs

ESSEX, Vt. (AP)—A woman was left with severe burns and blisters on her legs after encountering an invasive species of plant in

Charlotte Murphy says she developed painful blisters overnight after brushing against poison parsnip. Murphy says the blisters got so bad she had to go to the hospital to see a burn specialist.

The Essex woman learned her injuries were comparable to second-degree burns and were caused by the invasive plant.

David Grass of the Vermont Department of Health says the sap in the parsnip has a chemical reaction with the sun that causes accelerated burns. He says people should wear long pants and sleeves while in tall grass.

Murphy says she hopes her experience helps educate people.

Giant pyramid tourist attraction burns in northern Illinois

WADSWORTH, III. (AP)—Authorities say fire severely damaged a giant pyramid home that doubles as a tourist attraction in northern Illinois.

Gurnee Fire Department firefighters responded to a report that an elderly man in a wheelchair and his dog were trapped by the fire at the Gold Pyramid House in Wadsworth Tuesday afternoon.

Fire officials say no people were hurt but the dog died.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office says the fire wasn't suspicious.

The Gold Pyramid House was built in 1977 as a private residence but has since opened for public tours. A 55-foot-tall (17-meter-tall) statue of Ramses II stands guard outside.

The 17,000 square foot (1,600 sq. meter), six-story structure about 45 miles (70 kilometers) north of Chicago is surrounded by a moat and contains a replica of King Tut's tomb.

Police post mugshot of lost dog, bail paid in cookies

CAPE MAY, N.J. (AP)—A dog is home after police in a New Jersey shore town posted its mugshot on social media.

Cape May Patrolman Michael LeSage found Bean the pug in a yard on Sunday. He tells The Star-Ledger of Newark he tried to get the dog to hop into his police car, but her legs were too short so he had to lift her.

Police posted a photo of Bean on Facebook with the caption: "This is what happens when you run away from home." It took a few hours before Bean's owners tracked her down.

Hadley Hubbard of Baltimore, Maryland, thanked police and posted that Bean was sound asleep after an exciting run.

LeSage posted that Bean paid her bail in



Time:

5:30pm

6:00pm

5:30pm

6:00pm

On the last day, dinner will be served immediately after mass at

celebrate our beloved's First Death Anniversary.

Maria Lizama Terlaje and Children

(Francis/Frances T. Taimanao & Children)

(John L./Betty G. Terlaje & Children)

(Marvin DLG. / Gina T. Hazen & Children)

Vince L./Marcy R. Terlaje & Children

Jacody L. Terlaje

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay and Thank

You for your thoughts and prayers and for joining us

the residence of Maria L. Terlaje at As Terlaje hill across NMC.

Date:

July 15, 2018

July 23, 2018

July 16-20, 2018

July 21-22, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2018 **23**

Science & Technology

Amazon pokes fun at glitches, says tech gadgets popular

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon poked fun at the early glitches it saw with Prime Day, though it said shoppers still found plenty to buy. Analysts, meanwhile, saw other things Amazon could have done better, like discounting more fashion brands and taking more advantage of its acquisition of Whole Foods.

Early problems Monday sent shoppers to social media to complain after their attempts to click on Prime Day deals returned only images of dogs with an apologetic message. The snags were an embarrassment for the tech company on the much-hyped shopping holiday it created.

"It wasn't all a walk in the (dog) park, we had a ruff start—we know some customers were temporarily unable to make purchases," Amazon said in a statement.

But Amazon touted Prime Day growth and said shoppers still found lots to buy, with tech gadgets in particular among the most popular. It said top sellers included some of its own devices—the Fire TV stick with Alexa Voice Remote, Echo Dot and Fire 7



In this Tuesday, July 17, 2018 photo, a FedEx employee delivers packages in Miami. Amazon Prime Day was launched July 16 and and will be six hours longer than last year's and will launch new products.

tablet with Alexa. Others included a water filter for hiking and the multi-use Instant Pot.

The hiccups, though, could have sent shoppers elsewhere during a key period for Amazon to sign up new Prime members. It recently announced that the cost of Prime membership would go up, and the shopping day is a way to prove the value. Many other chains offered sales and promotions to try to capi-

talize on the day. And industry observers said Amazon could have done a better job in several areas, such as offering personalized recommendations.

"For all the hype about Whole Foods, the grocery stuff on sale was less appetizing," said Sucharita Mulpuru-Kodali, an analyst at Forrester Research. "No Prime Day specials at the store."

She also said some of the products Amazon's site was pushing were a little odd, like urinal splash guards in the health section. She also believes Amazon should have started the sale at midnight instead of the middle of the day to reduce the rush of traffic on the site.

Why is Facebook keen on robots? It's just the future of Al

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— Facebook announced several

new hires of top academics in the field of artificial intelligence Tuesday, among them a roboticist known for her work at Disney making animated figures move in more human-like ways.

The hires raise a big ques-

tion—why is Facebook interested in robots, anyway?

It's not as though the social media giant is suddenly interested in developing mechanical friends, although it does use robotic arms in some of its data centers. The answer is even more central to the problem of how AI systems work today.

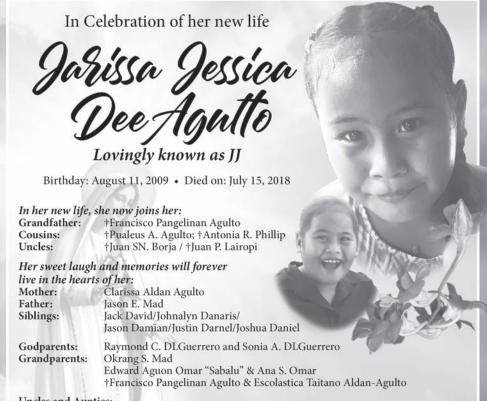
Today, most successful AI systems have to be exposed to millions of data points labeled by humans—like, say, photos of cats—before they can learn to recognize patterns that people take for granted. Similarly, game-playing bots like Google's computerized Go master AlphaGo Zero require

tens of thousands of trials to learn the best moves from their failures.

Creating systems that require less data and have more common sense is a key goal for making AI smarter in the future.

"Clearly we're missing something in terms of how humans can learn so fast," Yann LeCun, Facebook's chief AI scientist, said in a call with reporters last week. "So far the best ideas have come out of robotics."

Among the people Facebook is hiring are Jessica Hodgins, the former Disney researcher; and Abhinav Gupta, her colleague at Carnegie Mellon University who is known for using robot arms to learn how to grasp things.



Uncles and Aunties: Janice Omar & Steven Kapileo / Juan Omar / Janet Omar & Mork Sugiyama / Cheryl Mad / Delora Mad and children / Swayne Mad and children / Jessica Mad & Nelson Saimon and children /

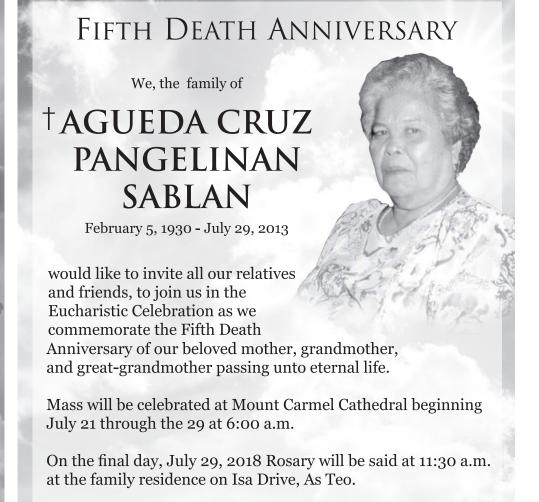
Rosa Sanchez & Anicio and children / Newly Agulto & Maria A. Agulto and children / Gloria A. Cabrera & Casimiro and children / Carla A. Borja & Edward A. Pangelinan and children / Diana A. Lairopi & †Juan P. Lairopi and children / Ginalynn A. Agulto and children / Sonia A. Deleon Guerrero & Raymond C. Deleon Guerrero

Daily Mass of intention is being offered every night at 6:00pm at Santa Soledad Church.

On Monday, July 23, 2018, her remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Homes at 7:30am to Mount Carmel Cathedral followed by Responso and public viewing for friends and family to pay their last respects.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 11:00am followed by interment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay and Thank you Clarissa Agulto / Jason Mad and Family



Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

From:

The Family

Appreciation lunch to follow.

24 FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Life & Style

A Comic-Con without Marvel, HBO gives others a chance to pop

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Comic-Con fans know one thing to be true: Where there is fun, there's usually a line that precedes it. And hours before the annual pop culture convention officially kicked off Wednesday night in San Diego, there were lines everywhere—to get onto the convention floor to buy merchandise at the stroke of 6 p.m., to have the life scared out of them at the DC Universe Swamp Thing "experience," to gaze at pretty Laika characters, to get into a Hall H panel Thursday morning and even to take a photo with an Andrew Lincoln lookalike.

Over 130,000 pop culture devotees will come to San Diego's Gaslamp District for the annual four-day comic book convention Comic-Con, the big, bright and very heavily branded confab of costumed superfans and the corporate sponsors vying for their attention—and dollars.

Interested in dining at a working replica of the "Demolition Man" Taco Bell for the movie's 25th anniversary? Or witness a mock court-martial of Star Wars' Poe Dameron for leading a mutiny in "Star Wars: The Last Jedi"? How



about a wine and beer tasting with Neil deGrasse Tyson? Or a "Ready Player One" experience with retro gaming stations and recreation of Room 237 from "The Shining"? If you like pop culture, it's highly likely there is something tailor-made for you at Comic-Con 2018.

"I'm blown away by everyone, everything," said firsttime attendee Jeffrey Potts, of Los Angeles. "It's like an amusement park in the middle of town."

Right outside the convention center, across the train tracks, DC Universe has set up a massive space with props and costumes from various movies and tv shows in DC history, like the giant rubber ducky cart from "Batman Begins," and some elaborately-staged "experiences" like a menacing Harley Quinnthemed escape room in a

paint-splattered asylum.

What started as a 300-person event in 1970 has evolved into a massive operation with events year-round. But San Diego Comic-Con is the marquee occasion. Tickets for four-day access plus preview night can set attendees back \$276, before hotel, travel costs, food and any souvenirs.

Loicia Ware, a San Diego resident who has been coming to Comic-Con for at least Brandon Keller, of San Diego, poses as a zombie from the television series "The Walking Dead" as he waits in line for Preview Night of the 2018 Comic-Con International at the San Diego Convention Center, Wednesday, July 18, 2018, in San Diego

10 years, likes to venture onto the convention center floor right when it opens Wednesday evening for preview night, heading straight for Artists Alley and Small Collections on the 460,000 square foot space. It allows her to focus on panels for the rest of the week.

As it has grown, attendees have come to expect a lot from Comic-Con, like exclusive merchandise on the convention center floor, newsy announcements from some of Hollywood's biggest studios,

and screenings of anticipated films and television shows.

This year Warner Bros. is coming armed with stars and footage from "Aquaman," "Shazam!," "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald" and "The LEGO Movie 2"; Sony is hyping its Spider-Man spinoff "Venom"; and Universal Pictures will be teasing "Halloween" and M. Night Shyamalan's "Glass." On the television side, fans will get a glimpse of new "Doctor Who" star Jodie Whittaker and have a chance to check out "Star Trek: Discovery" and "Riverdale." And streaming services like Netflix and Hulu will be back with properties like Marvel's "Iron Fist" and the new J.J. "Castle Abrams-produced Rock," based on Stephen King stories.

'The Dark Knight' returning to IMAX screens in August

LOS ANGELES (AP)—
"The Dark Knight" is returning to the big screen—actually, four of the biggest ones—in celebration of its 10th anniversary.

Warner Bros. announced Wednesday that the middle film in Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy will be shown on IMAX screens in Los Angeles, New York City, San Francisco and Toronto for one week beginning Aug. 24.

The theaters chosen will

play the movie in the 70mm IMAX film format that Nolan used for some of the film's action sequences. He has used the format in two of his subsequent movies, "Interstellar" and last year's World War II epic, "Dunkirk."

"The Dark Knight" features Heath Ledger's performance as The Joker, which won him a posthumous Oscar.

Warner Bros. says tickets for the opening-day showings will go on sale Friday.

Springsteen surprises audience at Billy Joel concert

NEW YORK (AP)—Bruce Springsteen propped himself on top of Billy Joel's piano to sing a duet with The Piano Man, who was celebrating a milestone Wednesday night.

Springsteen surprised the audience—who loudly cheered "BRUCE"—at Madison Square Garden when he walked onto the stage. Springsteen rocked his guitar and sang, while Joel

worked hard on piano.

Joel's Wednesday show at MSG marked his 100th at the famed venue. He started performing a monthly residency at the arena in 2014. No art-

ist has performed at the venue more than Joel.

Joel and Springsteen hugged after their two-song performance, and The Boss kissed Joel on his head as he walked offstage.

Hurt turns to anger as video games consume boyfriend

EAR ABBY: I am tired of taking a backseat to my boyfriend's video game addiction. He comes home from work, sits on the couch and gets lost in his video games. It has gotten to the point where he barely speaks to me or even looks up from his game.

I know he chats with a lot of people, both male and female, on these games. I suspect he has inappropriate conversations that he feels are harmless because he won't meet these people in person.

Constantly being ignored is hurting my feelings. He never responds to my texts anymore because he's so busy on his game. I'm starting to feel resentful, lonely and very angry. Please advise me on what to do.

ANGRY IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR ANGRY: Your boyfriend may or may not be a video game addict. If his conversations online are "inappropriate," he may be playing more than one kind of "game." If he feels that those conversations are harmless, he is mistaken because what he is doing isn't healthy for you or the relationship.

My advice? Give him an ultimatum: Modify his behavior or else, and if he refuses, end the romance before he damages your self-esteem. Being ignored has been known to do that. Trust me.

DEAR ABBY: We are having a struggle in our family, and I'm unsure how to handle it. Three years ago, our adult nephew, "Connor," underwent hormone therapy, counseling and transgender surgery. She is now our niece "Cathy." The transforma-

tion was successful, and Cathy is happier than we've ever seen her. We loved Connor, and nothing has changed in our relationship with Cathy. She has visited us numerous times, and we have reciprocated.

The problem is Cathy's sister, "Amy." Amy has disowned Cathy. She says Connor "died to her" when he underwent the gender reassignment.

Not only is it heartbreaking for the whole family, but I'm finding it increasingly difficult to maintain a relationship with Amy because of her rigid attitude. She boycotts family reunions and celebrations if Cathy will be present, even though family members have traveled from across the country to attend.

Amy is now expecting a baby, and I'm not feeling very celebratory toward her. Please advise.

VERY SAD AUNT IN WISCONSIN

DEAR AUNT: From what you have written, it appears that by distancing herself from Cathy, Amy is isolating herself from the family. I understand that you may not wish to attend her baby shower, but if you don't, it would be nice to send something for the child. Amy may come around one day, so keep the door open.

DEAR ABBY: I am a female and my male friend, "Sam," is recently engaged to be married. I talk to him daily and invite him out to dinner sometimes.

Sam's fiancee, "Felicia," has expressed to both of us that she's uncomfortable with our relationship. She asked us to set

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



"boundaries," but I feel Sam is my friend and friends shouldn't have boundaries. When I asked him out to dinner against her wishes, she became irate. Do you think I'm disrespecting their relationship? What should I do?

FOREVER FRIEND IN CHICAGO

DEAR FRIEND: It is a mistake not to recognize that Sam's status has changed. If you value your friendship with him, you must start respecting the fact that he's now engaged and do as his fiancee has requested — set some boundaries. If you cannot do that, you can kiss your friendship with Sam goodbye.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2018 **25** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes









Garfield_®







Adam@home

packet

17 Regrets

18 Dazzles

19 Humor-

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31 Season

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By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

By Jim Davis













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45 Toe Yesterday's answer 7-20

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call. 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julianne Hough, 30; Judy Greer, 43; Josh Holloway, 49: Carlos Santana, 71.

Happy Birthday: Look for the most appropriate and efficient way to operate your life moving forward Structure your ideas based on experience and what you have enjoyed doing most. Look for opportunities that will encourage you to use your imagination and encompass the creative process that brings you the most joy Make romance a priority and live life to the fullest. Your numbers are 4, 16, 22, 29, 34, 40, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't leave anything to chance. Cover your back and take care of important business yourself. Speak up and protect vour right to do as you please, but be willing to admit and answer for the mistakes you make as well. •••

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Control your emotions and the way you respond to what's going on around you or between you and someone else. Be willing to listen and to resolve matters peacefully. Strive for equality; maintain integrity in all you do.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Review what's entailed to reach your goal. Taking care of your responsibilities without subjecting yourself to loss or inconvenience will take a strong will and good ideas that are doable. Pipe dreams are not solutions since they will deter you from moving forward.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look for a unique way to express who you are and what you represent. A new image will attract the people who are most apt to help you achieve your dreams. Engage in social activities that enhance your life. Romance is featured. �����

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be careful whom you mess with. Emotional situations will get blown out of proportion, easily leaving you in a precarious position that can affect your relationship with someone special. Think before you say or do something you'll regret. 🛇

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your desire for change should be contemplated. A hasty move will be met with opposition that can put a damper on your plans. Know what you are up against; work with those you need to reach your goal. OOOO

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Engage in energetic activities that will keep you too busy to get into trouble. Expect someone who counts on you to burden you with demands. Offer suggestions and move on to whatever benefits you most. Don't give in to bullying.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Emotions will mount, making it difficult for you to avoid an altercation with someone you disagree with. Curb your desire to pour your energy into something as useless as a fight when you should be focusing on getting ahead. •••

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Think and follow through. Your ideas can help you, free up cash or earn more

money. Your deliberate actions will not be welcomed by all, but as long as they work for you, don't let anyone interfere in reaching your destination. 🛇 🔾 🔾

Sudoku is a number-placing

puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with

several given numbers. The

object is to place the numbers

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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do whatever you set your mind to. Be proud of your abilities and skills, and share your victory

with the people you care about most. Romance is encouraged. 🛇 😂 😂 AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look

for balance and integrity. Shy away from anyone trying to push you to indulge in something that isn't in your best interest. Look for purpose and a reason to put your energy, time and money into change. 😂

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

You've got moves. Whether a physical

or creative feat, you will prove you can

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Explore old ideas. Consider how best to update and modify what you have already started. Looking for a progressive and alternative route will lead to solutions that fit the current economic climate. Personal gain is within reach. �����

Birthday Baby: You are receptive, creative and passionate. You are adaptable and persistent.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column 6 8 and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis 1 Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday. a 5 8 б Yesterday's Answer 2 1 1 2 7 3 5 8 6 9 4 5 4 6 5 8 7 4 9 1 3 2 |4|3 9|1 6 2|5 7|8 5 8 6 4 3 1 9 2 7 1 3 7 4 9 2 6 8 5 1 2 9 1 8 7 5 3 4 6 5 3 7 6 3 5 1 4 2 8 9 9 4 2 6 8 3 7 1 5 8 6 8 1 5 2 9 7 4 6 3

7/20

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Difficulty Level ★★★

By DAVID WONDERWORD

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed belo-zontally, vertically, diagonally and eyen had letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

VERNE TROYER (1969-2018)

GGRNE LLAGL ٧ ERD ENEBHBUBBLEBOYG NOUNASUSBROTHER EMBOTBALITTALNI VEEIYMYCLEMONTP ANIWESSDLREKTH

LLLEWOPDROMEIO V O 🕒 E A M E J I A A O H R O ENLÜFEIRYKYHCBK PEVOLIRNATEONIE COACH®WRIWHAUGI KSWAPGURUMFGP CELEBRITYSMOIYH A E R D R P H R E A K Y R M S J T A L K S T U R G I S E T S

Attila, Austin, Baby's Day Out, Big, Britney, Brother, Bubble Boy, Celebrity, Coach, Cool. Dr. Evil, Dr. Phreak, Film, Fort, Gallen, Genevieve, Gnome Alone, Griphook, Guru, Hard Cash, Home, Jack, Keith, Lemon, Life, Love, Mighty Joe Young, Mini-Me, Powell, Powers, Punch, Reuben, Role, Sets, Spike, Sturgis, Surreal, Susan, Swap, Talks, Wife, WWE Raw, Yoga Yesterday's Answer: Portable

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WoncerWordBooks.com or cal 1-800-842-6480. **26** FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2018 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ACCOUNTANT: Must be College Graduate with a 4-year degree & with at least two years experience in accounting. Summarizes financial status by collecting information, preparing balance sheet, profit and loss statement, and other reports. Knowledgeable in real estate and drilling operations is a plus. QuickBooks preferred.

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PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST: Minimum of 3 years experience in project management and have supervisory skills. Must know to design actions plans to increase productivity, manage project costs, and keep projects on schedule for completion and lead entire teams of staff to keep project goals coordinated and get projects completed. Two years in drilling business is required. Preferably college graduate.



Alexander Incorporated

Alexander Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950 For inquiries, please call 234-5117

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR Architectural/engineering design services

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT Commuter Terminal Access Road Paving Project No. CPA-SA-007-18

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural/Engineering Design Services for this project inclusive of onsite assessment and preparation of plans and specifications for road repair, drainage and resurfacing of the access road leading to the Saipan Commuter Terminal. All work will be performed at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations. Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Monday, August 6, 2018, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than 5:00 p.m., MONDAY, AUGUST 13. 2018. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio Executive Director Commonwealth Ports Authority P.O. Box 501055 Saipan, MP 96950-1055

's/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO Executive Director Date: July 19, 2018





1 General Maintenance - 3-5 years experience with valid driver's license. Police Clearance required. Email resume to BFJ Corporation at cisco.cnmi@yahoo.com

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

<u>Position:</u> Scuba Diving Instructor (Self-Enrichment Educational Teachers) x1

Work Location: Koblerville, Saipan & other diving sites in the CNMI

Working Hours: Full-time (8hrs/day, 40hrs/week; Flex Time)

Wage: \$53,581.00/yr; frequency= monthly; 0.T.= x 1.5

Job Duties: Teach, instruct, and guide scuba diving activities to individuals or groups at public or private facilities. Explains & demonstrates the basic of scuba diving & teaches the proper use of diving equipments. Conduct certification classes to achieve proficiency in diving. Supervise other employees. May assist customers at Employer's outdoor sports retail shop, and do other related duties as assigned.

Requirements: Minimum 5 years of work experience as scuba diving instructor. Must be a PADI or NAUI certified, licensed Scuba Diving Instructor. Must be able to speak, read and write Japanese language enough to teach and instruct scuba diving to tourists and regulars from Japan, that dominate the nationality of the Company's customers.

 $\underline{\textbf{Compensations:}} \ \ \textbf{Workers'} \ \ \textbf{Compensation} \ \ \& \ \ \textbf{scuba} \ \ \textbf{diving} \\ \textbf{instructor insurance provided.} \\$

Please send your resume with a copy of your diving instructor license, or your inquiry by e-mail to:

SELFISH SAIPAN, INC. E-mail info@selfish-saipan.com

Phone: (670) 235-7505 (Mami)



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-65001 + Fax (670) 234-65962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CPA NEW ACCOUNTING OFFICE/ CNMI CUSTOMS & QUARNTINE RENOVATIONS PROJECT

PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-008-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural/Engineering Design Services inclusive of onsite assessments and preparation of plans and specifications for construction of a new 1st floor enclosure for CPA Accounting (West Wing), renovation to the CNMI Customs and Quarantine Office (stat Wing), roof leak repairs, removal and application of water proofing membrane at both the East and West Wings (above customs and accounting respectively), and repairs to the male/female baggage claim restrooms.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations. Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and

wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, August 3, 2018, 5:00 p.m., local time.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ

The statements of professional quantization with the evaluated based on the criteria available in the Kru package.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on

a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than 5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 2018. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio Executive Director Commonwealth Ports Authority P.O. Box 501055 Saipan, MP 96950-1055

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO

Date: July 19, 2018

Find today's solution in classified section



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INVITATION FOR BID PROJECT NO.: CPA-IFB-009-18

BID SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 03, 2018 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"COMPLETE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF CENTRIFUGAL VENTILATORS TO BE REPLACED WITH NEW VENTILATORS AT RESTROOM FACILITIES, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

THE BID PACKAGE WHICH INCLUDES THE SPECIFICATIONS AND OTHER CONSIDERATION IS AVAILABLE BEGINNING JULY 13, 2018 AT THE CPA ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DEPARTURE BUILDING UPON PAYMENT OF \$100. PAYMENT SHALL BE IN A FORM OF CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO CPA.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL BID AND TWO (2) COPIES TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: "PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-009-18". BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020, §40-50-1015, & §40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, FINANCIAL INTEREST, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: ___



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-18-026

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE A BASIC LINEMAN TRAINING PROGRAM

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to provide a basic lineman training program for CUC, Power Transmission & Distribution Division.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "*CUC-RFP-18-026, Basic Lineman Training Program*" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 14, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 31, 2018 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee Lieto, Power T&D Manager, via email address lee.lieto@cucgov.org, Roger Madriaga, Human Resource Training Coordinator, via email address roger.madriaga@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO Executive Director MANUEL B. SABLAN, JR. Purchasing Administrator

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) Branch Manager

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Oversee day to day administrative operations of Future World Corporation's Saipan Branch: Directly and indirectly supervises employees or employees of subcontractors assigned to various construction projects; Carries out supervisory and project management responsibilities in accordance with the organization's policies, industry best practices, and as established by any applicable federal and local laws governing construction companies; Responsibilities include interviewing, hiring, and training employees; planning, assigning, and directing work; appraising performance; rewarding and disciplining employees; addressing complaints and resolving problems; Review and establish or recommend company policies, goals, objectives, and procedures to company principals in Guam; Reviews project/construction contract proposals or plan to determine time frame, funding limitations, procedures for accomplishing project, staffing requirements, and allotment of available resources to various phases of project; Negotiates and/or executes contracts, agreements, leases, notes, etc. on behalf of company and reports results to company principals in Guam; Assign and/or delegate project site work (assignments) and/or activities to others (i.e. construction/project managers, etc.), sets expectations timeline and monitors delegated activities to ensure project/construction plans are met and completed in a timely manner; Establishes work plan and staffing for each phase of construction contract/project, and arranges for recruitment or assignment of construction contract/project personnel; Confers with construction manager, workers or subcontractors to outline work plan and to assign duties, responsibilities, and scope of authority; Directs and coordinates activities or construction project personnel to ensure project progresses on schedule and within prescribed budget; Review status reports prepared by construction project personnel and modifies schedules or plans as required. Prepares project reports for management, client, or others. Confers with construction project personnel to provide technical advice and to resolve problems; Ensures that all government licenses, permits, etc. are updated/renewed; Review, approve and sign payments to subcontractors, vendors, suppliers, etc.; and May travel to Guam to attend meetings at head office.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration (foreign equivalency is acceptable); and
- At least five (5) years management experience.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Jae Sang Ji, Vice President/Sr. Project Manager Future World Corporation dba Future World Construction Unit 201, 2nd Floor, Lim's Building, Beach Road, San Jose P.O. Box 500968, Saipan, MP 96950 Telephone/Facsimile (670) 234-1667; or by e-mail: studiojaeji@gmail.com or futureworld@guam.net.

WE ARE AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN (CAD) TECHNICIAN

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Operate computer-aided drafting (CAD) equipment or conventional drafting station to produce designs, working drawings, charts, forms, and records; Analyze building codes, space and site requirements, and other technical documents and reports to determine their effect on architectural and engineering designs; Coordinate civil, architectural, structural, electrical, and mechanical design plans and determine a method of presentation to graphically represent building plans; Draw rough and detailed scale plans for foundation, buildings, and structures, based on preliminary concepts, sketches, engineering calculations, specification sheets, shop drawings, as-builts and other data; Lay out and plan interior room arrangements for commercial buildings, custom residential homes using computer assisted drafting (CAD) equipment and software; Obtain and assemble data to complete architectural and or engineering designs, visiting job sites to compile measurements as necessary; Determine procedures and instructions to be followed, according to design specifications and quantity of required materials; Check dimensions of materials to be used and assign numbers to lists of materials; Analyze technical implications of architect and engineering design concept, calculating weights, volumes, and stress factors; and Prepare cost estimates, contracts, bidding documents, and technical reports for specific projects under an architect's supervision.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Associates Degree in Drafting (foreign equivalency is acceptable);
- Must have extensive knowledge with Computer Aided Design (CAD) and/or similar programs;
- $\bullet\,$ Must have good communications, numeracy and IT skills; and
- At least three (3) year experience with construction design.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Jae Sang Ji, Vice President/Sr. Project Manager Future World Corporation dba Future World Construction Unit 201, 2nd Floor, Lim's Building, Beach Road, San Jose P.O. Box 500968, Saipan, MP 96950 Telephone/Facsimile (670) 234-1667; or by e-mail: studiojaeji@gmail.com or futureworld@guam.net.

WE ARE AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Machado exit to start Orioles' rebuilding process



MORE ┛(AP)—Bur-

ied in the AL East cellar and well on their way to a second straight losing season, the Baltimore Orioles enter the so-called second half with this unavoidable realization: It's time to break up the band.

The trade of shortstop Manny Machado to the Los Angeles Dodgers on Wednesday night started the inevitable rebuilding process for a team that has bottomed out in 2018. After reaching the playoffs in 2012, 2014 and 2016, the Orioles own the second-worst record (28-69) in the major leagues, have endured six losing streaks of at least a halfdozen games and have been shut out nine times.

Thus, Baltimore approaches the July 31 non-waiver trade deadline in full selling mode. The exit of Machado could be followed by the departure of outfielder Adam Jones, lefty Zach Britton and right-hander Brad Brach, all of whom are in the final year of their contracts.

"Obviously, you never want to be in a position to sell, but that's just the nature of this business," nine-year veteran Danny Valencia said. "The front office is going to make moves that they feel (are) going to better this team in the future. Us as players, we have to accept this."

It hurts even more because the Orioles left spring training fully expecting to be contend-

"There's no shortage of talent on this team," right-hander Kevin Gausman said. "That's the most frustrating thing."

The Orioles tried to keep a good thing going. It didn't work. All they can do now is



Baltimore Orioles' Manny Machado throws out Chicago White Sox's Yolmer Sanchez at first during the third inning of a baseball game Monday, May 21, 2018, in Chicago.

offer a hug and a wave to those headed elsewhere.

"If Adam Jones is gone, I'd be bummed. He's one of my friends," Valencia said before the All-Star break. "Manny, too. It's a good thing for those guys because they're going to be going to teams trying to win a World Series, but you don't want to see guys like that playing in a different uniform."

Machado has never suited up for anyone but the Orioles, but he'll be wearing Dodger blue on Friday night in Milwaukee. Britton has played only for Baltimore, and Jones began his career with Seattle

but became a five-time All-Star with the Orioles.

And now, it appears as if it's time for them to move on.

"It sucks, man," Valencia said. "When you're winning, the team stays together. Losing, they break up the team. And I think the saddest part of this is, at the end of the year guys will be on different teams and the offseason will come, and they'll look back and have regrets because they will realize this team was super talented and underachieved."

Executive vice president of baseball operations Dan Duquette is carefully weighing all

options. It took him a while to unload Machado, and he probably won't make another deal until he's absolutely sure he's getting as much talent as possible,

"Until it happens, it hasn't happened," Britton said. "You don't know the offers that they're getting."

Come August, and maybe sooner, it will be time for the Orioles to take a long look at their younger players and try to make the best of a horrific season. Manager Buck Showalter is currently protecting the team's trade chips (he prevented Machado from playing on a wet field Sunday) while making plans for guiding a different sort of club.

"There's things I'm trying to do with people who could potentially be moved, trying to do what's best for the organization long term and short term," Showalter said. "I stop and think about those factors every decision I make."

NFL concussion payout could reach \$1.4 billion



PHILADEL-PHIA (AP)— Lawyers representing former NFL players

estimated Wednesday that payouts from the concussion settlement with the league will top \$1.4 billion, a \$400 million jump because of thousands more players filing claims.

The number of players who filed to be a part of the settlement is outpacing all previous estimates and could keep growing, the lawyers said in a federal court filing based on estimates from an actuary. The estimate accounts for players who have filed claims and those who have officially given notice that they intend to file claims.

The actuary said participation rates are 21 percent higher than estimated when the settlement was reached. As of July 16, 499 claims totaling more than \$485 million had been approved, according to the filing.

The massive increase in estimated payout came the same day a judge denied a request from the league to appoint a special investigator to look into what the league said are extensive fraudulent claims against the settlement

Judge Anita Brody wrote in her federal court ruling that the league's attorneys had demonstrated that there is "sufficient evidence of probable fraud to warrant serious concern." But Brody said a special master and a claims administrator have effectively ferreted out those claims for now.

"The audit process is working effectively," Brody wrote in her deferral ruling, saying if the claims administrator or special master notify the court an investigator is needed, "the Court will rule on the motion at that time."

The league requested an investigator and cited in its May argument an independent study it said found more than 400 claims recommended for denial based on evidence of fraud by attorneys, doctors and former players attempting to cheat the program. The league has said those attempts to scam the \$1 billion settlement fund have slowed down the awarding of valid claims.

The settlement, which took effect January 2017, resolved thousands of lawsuits that accused the NFL of hiding what it knew about the risks of repeated concussions.

McIlroy eager to chase title at site of his 1st British Open

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland (AP)—Rory McIlroy was an 18-year-old with big head of curls and a big game to match when he teed it up as an ama-

teur in his first British Open at

Carnoustie in 2007. Carefree and unafraid, he played the first round without making a bogey and went on to win the silver medal as low amateur. Soon he would turn pro, and anyone who knows golf knows how well the story has unfolded since.

The mop of hair is now closely trimmed, barely sticking out the back of his Nike hat. He's gotten married, become rich and has four major championship trophies on his fireplace mantle.

But as he returns to the site of his first major championship, the memories of being young and on an adventure of a lifetime come back. And he wonders why it all can't be that simple again.

"I look back at those pictures," McIlroy said Wednesday, "and the more I can be

like that kid, the better." Father Time waits for no one, of course, but it's not like McIlroy is now a senior statesman in golf. He's 29 and in his prime, and the oddsmakers in Britain make him one of the favorites to walk off the 18th green on Sunday with his second claret jug.

But with his massive success over the years comes massive expectations. And McIlroy is the first to admit that sometimes trying to live up to those expectations can be wearing.

"I think sometimes I need to get back to that attitude where I play carefree and just happy to be

here," he said. "I was THE OPEN just trying to soak everything in, and I was

just so grateful to be here."

McIlroy tees off Thursday in search of another title in a tournament that has given him more than just memories. He's got his silver medal from 11 years ago, and he's also got his name on the claret jug for his wire-to-wire win at Royal Liverpool in 2014.

He was the No. 1 player in the world then, and quickly followed the Open with a win at the PGA Championship the next month. He was on such a run that people in golf started talking about his chances of eventually passing Tiger Woods and Jack Nicklaus with the most major championship wins ever.

But while he still wins on a regular basis, there hasn't been another major title since.

He's struggled when it really counts, including at the U.S. Open last month, when he shot 80 in the first round and failed to make the cut.

A win here this week might just be what he needs to jumpstart the talk about multiple majors once again.

"I've always said that my performances in the majors at that point, that wasn't the norm," McIlroy said. "That wasn't my normal level. That was above my normal level, and then you sort of-you go back down, and then you build yourself back up again. But everything finds its balance. And even the 14 that Tiger won, that was him at his 100 percent best. We're not all going to be like that every single time. There's going to be times where you do struggle with this and with that."

Leonard-DeRozan swap: Huge risk for Spurs, Raptors



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The Kawhi Leonard saga in San Antonio is over. So is DeMar DeRozan's time in Toronto.

An NBA summer blockbuster got pulled off Wednesday, with the Spurs sending Leonard to the Raptors as part of a four-player deal that has DeRozan heading to San Antonio. The Spurs also got center Jakob Poeltl and a 2019 protected firstround draft pick, while the Raptors acquired sharpshooter Danny Green.

For Leonard and the Spurs, there's finally closure to a relationship that seemed fractured beyond repair and played out like a soap opera as the season went along. But in the end, Spurs coach Gregg Popovich—insisting that looking back at what happened would not be worth his time, and that Leonard was a good teammate throughout his tenure in San Antonio—simply said he hopes the move works out for everyone involved.

"Kawhi, obviously, worked very hard to become the play-

er he is," Popovich said in San Antonio, a couple of hours after the trade became official when the teams got approval on the terms from the NBA. "Our staff worked very hard to help him get there. We wish him all the best as he moves on to Toronto. I think he's going to be great."

Leonard was the 2014 NBA Finals MVP and had been with the Spurs for seven seasons, averaging 16.3 points, though was limited to just nine games last season because of a leg injury. DeRozan has been in the league for nine years, all of them with Toronto, and is a career 19.7 point-per-game scorer.

DeRozan has led the Raptors in scoring in each of the last five seasons. He was key to Toronto winning 59 games and securing the No. 1 seed for the Eastern Conference playoffs last season. But after getting swept in the second round by Cleveland, the Raptors decided massive changes were necessary -- first the firing of coach of the year Dwane Casey, and now the trading of a perennial All-Star who once famously declared



"I am Toronto."

DeRozan's initial reaction seemed to be one of anger and frustration.

"Ain't no loyalty in this game," DeRozan wrote in an Instagram story that appeared in the wee hours of Wednesday, around the time that ESPN and Yahoo Sports reported that the trade was approaching the imminent stage,

several hours before it was finalized. "Sell you out quick for a little bit of nothing"

DeRozan did not specifically reference the trade in that post, but his message didn't exactly need translation. Raptors president Masai Ujiri has been traveling in Africa and was not immediately available for comment.

Not only is the trade huge, it's

potentially risky for both teams.

Leonard hasn't played since January because of the somewhat mysterious right quadriceps injury—and the level of severity was something that even some of his now-former teammates reportedly questioned last season while San Antonio was trying to qualify for the Western Conference playoffs. The Raptors clearly aren't worried about Leonard's status, and Popovich indicated Wednesday that Leonard has recovered sufficiently enough to play.

During the 2016-17 season, he averaged a career-best 25.5 points and was third in the MVP voting. When healthy, there may be no better two-way player in the game.

And that makes him worth the risk for Toronto.

Leonard can be a free agent next summer. When he asked the Spurs for a trade weeks ago, it was made clear that he wants to play for the Los Angeles Lakers -- a team that landed LeBron James earlier this month to lead their Toronto Raptors' guard DeMar DeRozan, right, defends San Antonio Spurs' forward Kawhi Leonard (2) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Toronto, Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015.

contender. That means the Raptors are entering into this deal knowing that they could have given up a star like DeRozan for someone who might not be in Toronto for long.

Popovich and Leonard

planned rebuild back into a

Popovich and Leonard met last month, but nothing the Spurs could say apparently changed Leonard's mind about wanting a trade.

"Attempts were made to see what would be best, and in the end this trade appeared," Popovich said. "We felt that this was the way to go."

DeRozan and Leonard are expected to be on the court together next week in Las Vegas when USA Basketball convenes a national team training camp.

That team's coach? Gregg Popovich.

"I look forward to it," Popovich said.

Green, a career 40 percent shooter from 3-point range, said he wanted to thank Popovich and Spurs general manager R.C. Buford for what they've done for him over the years.

"I have many great memories that I will take with me," Green said in an Instagram post. "Through the ups and downs you've always made me feel SPECIAL. I want to personally thank Pop and RC for being the first to believe in me and give me the opportunity."

Poeltl has been a backup for his two NBA seasons, though is a 64 percent shooter so far in his young career.

Hawks, Thunder talking on Carmelo-Schroder trade

ATLANTA (AP)—The Oklahoma City Thunder are targeting guard Dennis Schroder and forward Mike Muscala in trade discussions that would send forward Carmelo Anthony to the Atlanta Hawks, according to a report Wednesday.

Per Sirius XM NBA's Mitch Lawrence, the Hawks would buy out Anthony's contract if they acquired him, making him a free agent. They are hoping to receive an asset as well, but getting rid of Schroder, who has three years and

(AP)—The \$46.5 million left on his contract, is Atlanta's "No. 1 priority," according to the report.

Anthony and the Thunder have been working together over the past two weeks on a method to part ways, which would allow Anthony to join a new team and save Oklahoma City around \$100 million in salary and luxury-tax penalties. Anthony's contract, which has one year and \$27.9 million remaining, is expected to make a trade difficult, but the team would save \$107 million through a trade, com-

pared to about \$90 million if they waive him via the stretch provision, stretching his salary over the next three seasons.

Multiple reports have pegged the Houston Rockets as the favorites to sign Anthony once he inevitably hits free agency.

Schroder became the odd man in Atlanta after the team acquired point guard Jeremy Lin from the Brooklyn Nets last week, as the Hawks intend to keep Lin -- who is recovering from a ruptured Achilles tendon—and his \$12.5 million expiring salary. Fifth overall pick Trae Young—whom the Hawks acquired, along with a future first-round pick, in a draft-day trade with Dallas—also is expected to see extensive minutes running the offense.

Schroder, 24, has publicly voiced his desire to be traded to a contender. He averaged a career-high 19.4 points along with 6.2 assists in 31.0 minutes per game last season, although his 3-point accuracy dipped to 29.0 percent from 34.0 percent the year before.



US Open tennis to offer record \$53M prize

(AP)—The U.S. Open women's and men's singles champions will each get \$3.8 million and the Grand Slam tennis tournament's total prize money will rise to \$53 million.

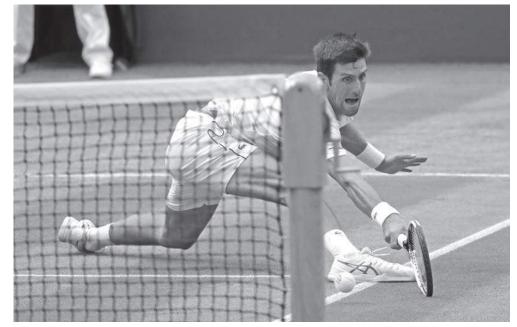
The U.S. Tennis Association says Wednesday that other increases include \$700,000 for the winning teams in men's and women's doubles, and a total of more than \$3 million in prize money for qualifying.

Last year's singles champions won \$3.7 million apiece, and the tournament's full payout for all events was a thenrecord \$50.4 million.

The USTA says U.S. Open prize money has increased 57 percent since 2013.

Main-draw matches at the year's last major championship begin on Aug. 27.

Meanwhile, two-time U.S. Open runner-up Victoria Azaren-



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Rafael Nadal of Spain during their men's singles semifinals match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London, Saturday July 14, 2018. Djokovic and Nadal will be playing in the U.S. Open next week.

ka is ranked just below the cutoff for direct entry into the year's last Grand Slam tournament.

Azarenka, a former No. 1 and twice the champion at the Australian Open, is No. 108 this week, seven spots outside of an automatic spot in the main draw.

Winners and losers of the tournament in Russia

MOSCOW (AP)—Savor the thrills, unpredictability, and constant drama of this World Cup. Even FIFA accepts the soccer showpiece might never be so engrossing again.

Russia might have staged the last 32-team World Cup. Or at least the last one not shoehorned in a crammed format at the end of the calendar year.

FIFA has yet to definitively rule out adding another 16 teams in time for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, but the leap to 48 teams will be happening for certain for the triple-hosted North American tournament in 2026. Welcome to 16 groups, each featuring three teams of which two advance to a round of 32.

duced by the extra cash an expansion tournament would nal FIFA briefing docu-

ment that determined 32-team finals tend to produce the "highest absolute quality" on the field.

Here is a look at the winners and losers of the tournament.

The lowest-ranked team at the finals, the hosts set the tone for the tournament by thrashing Saudi Arabia 5-0 in the opener. It wasn't a fluke as Stanislav Cherchesov's side

unexpectedly qualified from Soccer leaders were se- its group and even eliminated 2010 World Cup winner Spain in the round offer, but at the expense of the of 16. It was only a sucspectacle itself. Russia vindicated the 2016 inter- RUSSIA 2018 away from reaching the semifinals.

> As a tournament organizer, Russia also exceeded expectations. No one doubted Vladimir Putin's ability to mobilize the resources of the state to ensure operations ran smoothly. But police often adopted a relaxed approach to fans gathering on street corners and drinking in the streets. The hooliganism and racism that has scarred Russian football was absent.

Logistically, it was a tri-

umph, but it will take longer to discover whether the changes in Russia were just camouflage for the tournament.

Heavyweights floored

Even as they celebrate their second World Cup title, the French should have a sense of dread.

Germany became the third holder from the last three World Cups to be eliminated in the group stage. Germany's demise was a combination of complacency, failing to strike the right balance blending the young and older generation, and a simmering row over the Turkish heritage of Mesut Ozil and Ilkay Gundogan.

Association announced that de-US OPEN fending champion and top-ranked Rafael

Nadal is one of six past male singles champions in the U.S. Open field, along with Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray, Juan Martin del Potro and Marin Cilic. Another past title winner at Flushing

Meadows, Stan Wawrinka, is ranked 199th this week.

The women's winners with direct entry based on this week's rankings are six-time champion Serena Williams, twotime champ Venus Williams, defending champ Sloane Stephens, Maria Sharapova and Samantha Stosur.

UFC

From Page 32

upcoming fight.

'Geoff Neal is a boxer from what I know. I've seen a couple of his fights. He fights southpaw (lefty stance) and has really good striking combinations," he added.

Neal holds a 9-2 win-loss record with five of his victories coming by way of knockouts, two via submissions, and two off decisions. The Texas native has won his last three bouts with the latest at UFC 126 in February this year against Brian Camozzi. He forced his foe to submission (rear-naked choke) at the 2:48 mark of the first round. Neal's two other triumphs were recorded in 2017 against Chase Waldon (TKO/punches) and Bilal Williams (TKO/punches), while his last lost was versus Kevin Holland (TKO/ punches in the third round) on Jan. 28, 20-17.

Camacho, on the other hand, dropped his third UFC assignment, bowing to Drew Dober (decision) in the UFC on FOX 27 in January this year in Charlotte, North Carolina. The defeat against Dober came after the 29-yearold Camacho prevailed over

Damien Brown in UFC Fight Night 121 in November 2017 in Australia. Camacho holds a 1-2 record in UFC and has an overall mark of 21-6, with 15 wins via KOs. He debuted in UFC last Junes 17, 2017 and lost to China's Lingliang Li. All his three UFC bouts were named "Fight of the Night."

Against Neal, Camacho is expecting another tough battle.

"I'm very confident in my abilities, however, I cannot count his skills out. We are both in the UFC, there is no such thing as easy competition or an easy fight. He is also from Texas. I will be fighting another hometown hero. I ask all the people of the Marianas around the area for support to fly our flags high for UFC 228," Camacho said.

"My approach for this fight will be slightly different. My strength and conditioning coach has made adjustments to compliment my fighting style. We are also adding more wrestling and ground fighting, too in the event the fight goes to the ground. My mistake against my last opponent, Drew Dober, was I anticipated a standup fight, however, we ended up wrestling a whole lot. Focus for this fight camp is preparedness for anything and

SAPONG

From Page 32

participants finished in each of the eight events will be added to determine the Top 3 finishers in the octathlon (results were unavailable as of press time last night).

In the 800m run, N-nes Siech was ranked eighth after posting 2:30.93, while Beo Ngirchongor placed fifth in the 400m hurdles (1:01.12). Ngirchongor ran for the CNMI's 4x100m relay team along with Traven Quitugua, Neldreyton Skerei, and Douglas Schmidt and the quartet finished sixth after clocking in at 45.48 seconds.

In the shot put, Kelvin Fitial was the CNMI's best finisher (No. 5) after recording 11.35m, while Ronald Olopai and Antonio Ichiuo logged 9.36m and 8.72m, respectively.

With the athletics team adding two more medals yesterday and the CNMI getting a silver in the canoe competition, the Commonwealth now has a total of 15 (two golds, six silver, and seven bronze).

Guam moved back on top with its 26-12-12 tally, while Palau (21-7-8) and Pohnpei (9-20-11) complete the Top 3.

With the conclusion of the athletics and canoe competitions yesterday, the CNMI's hopes for more medals now fall on baseball, weightlifting, ocean swim, and volleyball.

The ocean swim will start today with the individual races, while the relay is set for tomorrow. Weightlifting will kick off on July 24, while vollevball began vesterday with the CNMI (men's team only) scheduled to face Kiribati.

Baseball team still perfect

The Patrick Tenorio-managed squad is now 3-0 following a 7-5 victory over Pohnpei yesterday.

The CNMI will go for the elimination round sweep to-



Orrin Pharmin does the shot put event in the octathlon competition in the 9th Micronesian Games last Wednesday in Yap.

day when it faces host Yap, which has yet to win after three matches and is likely to be booted out of the tournament. The Commonwealth, on

the other hand, is assured of a Top 2 finish in the preliminary round regardless of the results of its game against Yap at 6pm.

In other results yesterday,

Palau shut down Yap, 14-0, to bounce back from a 0-1 loss to the CNMI last Wednesday. Palau and the CNMI may likely face off anew this Saturday to battle for the first finals berth.

Men's canoe team gets silver

The men's canoe squad made up for its zero medal output in the opening day by winning a silver in the long distance race (15 miles).

Joshua Andrew, Jose Quan, Bobby Cruz, Maverick Itibus, Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, and Dino Manning towed the CNMI to a runner-up finish in the final event in the canoe competition after reaching the Yap Marina in 2:17:42.2. The host took the gold medal after making it to the start/ finish line in 2:16:14.1, while Pohnpei got the bronze after submitting 2:18:25.

In the women's 10-mile race, Palau was the gold medal winner after checking in at 1:25:39.8, while Pohnepi bagged the silver, as it timed in at 1:30:36.27. Guam rounded out the podium finish after completing the race in 1:31:21.9.

10 Trench Tech warriors to compete in Asian Open

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Team Trench Tech Purebred Saipan will be sending 10 fighters to the 2018 Asian IB-JJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship that will be held in Japan in September.

Dubbed as the "Asian Open," the tournament is sanctioned by the International Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Federation and is one of the most prestigious and biggest events not only in Japan, but also around the Pacific region. The competition will run from Sept. 7 to 9 at the Tokyo Budo-Kan in Tokyo.

Team Trench Tech Purebred Saipan, which will be attached to Guam's Purebred BJJ Team, will have its founder Cuki Alvarez joining the Brown Belt Masters 3 division contest (146 lbs). Others entered in the threeday tournament are Clinton Dela Cruz, Shane "Pikaboo Alvarez, Vince "The Clinch" Masga, Ken Tanzawa, Paulo Sangalang, Jeffery Garcia, Giovanni Taitingfong, Kier Agda, and Mark "The Dark" Nuique.

Dela Cruz will vie for the medals in the Black Melt Masters 1 146 lbs; Pikaboo and Masga in the adult male Purple Belt 146 lbs division; Tanzawa in the Purple Belt 176 lbs; Sangalang and Garcia in the Blue Belt 146 lbs; Taitingfong in the Blue Belt 141 lbs; Agda in the White Belt 200lbs; and Nuique in the White Belt 146 lbs.

Taitingfong, Agda, and Sangalang also competed in the 2018 Marianas Open Brazilian Jiu-jitsu Tournament in Guam in April and brought



home medals. Taitingfong beat his Guam foe in the finals of the Blue Belt, 131-145-lb division, while Agda and Sangalang both finished third in their respective categories.

After winning in Guam, the

Tech Trench warriors resumed training on Saipan to get ready for the much tougher

competition in Japan.

hard and consistently in preparation for this

event, and we are steadfast in accomplishing our mission to proudly "The team has been training represent the CNMI and bring medals home. We are excited and proud to represent our islands," Alvarez said.

With Cuki and company preparing for the tournament in Japan, Trench Tech has decided to push back the Rites of Passage 24: Ragin' Rumble. ROP 24, which was originally scheduled for next month, has been moved to October with Trench Trench planning on special prizes and promotions for fight fans.

atak Patak tops Saturday Night League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Patak Patak won the closely fought 59th Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Saturday Night League.

At the conclusion of the 16-week competition late last month, Patak Patak ended up with a 44-20 win-loss record—just a victory ahead of RR & Associates (43-21) and

three wins up over IT&E 4G LTE (41-23). Saipan Bowling Center/J's Restaurant finished

fourth with its 40-24, followed by Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan (37-27), JETS (27-37), and Youth Bowlers (18-46).

The champion team is made up of Joe Sablan, Raul Dumapit, Darwin Gonzalez, Danny Macaspac, Arnel Ibarreta, and Dannie Robles. Allan Hernandez led RR& Associates and was joined on the squad by Roger Vales, Donato Besid, Mel Regis, Ron Cal, Mario Batu, Ding Ordones, Romy Gueverra, and Eric Rabang. IT&E 4G LTE, on the other hand, had Ariel Dumapit, Bernard Paraiso, Jorge Soledad, Richard Leong, Ramir De Leon, Jojo and Lynn Santos, and Roland Epan on its roster.

With its hard-earned victory, Patak Patak received the championship trophy and \$550 cash. RR & Associates and IT&E 4G LTE also went home with trophies and \$300 and \$150 cash prizes, respectively, while SBC/J's Restaurant pocketed the \$70 consolation prize.

and IT&E 4G LTE split the four other team awards in the

the team scratch game and team handicap game. It totaled 972 in the scratch game to beat the 929 of Patak Patak and 922 of SBC/J's Restau-



Patak Patak players pose for a group photo after getting their first place prizes during the awards ceremony for the 59th Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Saturday Night League last weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RR & Associates members pose with their runner-up trophy during the awards ceremony for the 59th Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Saturday Night League last weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

rant. In the handicap game, Fiesta Resort collected 1,086, just two pins ahead of SBC/J's Restaurant (1,084), while Patak Patak was ranked third with its 1,077.

In the scratch series, IT&E 4G LTE's 2,699 surpassed Fiesta Resort's total (2,681) and SBC/J's Restaurant's (2,675). IT&E 4G LTE also had a good lead in the handicap series

with its 3,152 defeating the 3,072 of Fiesta Resort and Spa and 3,065 of SBC/J's Restaurant's. Additional cash prizes were also given to the Top 2 finishers in the four categories.

Kautz takes SGA May Ace; June Ace tournament this Sunday



Kautz the Saipan Golfers Associa-

tion May Ace

of the Month Tournament after shooting a net 70 last month at the Coral Ocean Point Golf & Resort.

10-handicapper The Kautz fired a 37 and 43 on the front and back nines for a gross 80 and tied Larry Deleon Guerrero for the best net score. Kautz eventually took the May Ace awards, as Deleon Guerrero had already won the March plum. Kautz and Deleon Guerrero, a 17-handicapper and scored a 42 and 45 on the front and back nines for a gross 17, joined Joe H. Aldan (January), Joe I. Sablan (February), and Alex Tudela (April) on the early qualifiers list for

the SGA Ace of Aces.

Rounding out the Top 3 for the May tournament was Attorney General Ed Manibusan, who carded a net 71 after making a gross 76 (37 on the front and 39 on the back nines with five handicap).

In side events, Deleon Guerrero made a closest to the pin shot on No. 14 and had the longest drive on No. 6. Alex Tudela, Ray Salas, and Jung Eun Teack were the other closest to the pin winners on No. 3, 7, and 12, respectively, while Aldan got the longest drive on No.18.

Meanwhile, the SGA June Ace of the Month Tournament will be held this Sunday at the Marianas Country Club. Check in is at 8:30am, while tee off is set at 9:30am. (Saipan Tribune)

Meanwhile, Fiesta Resort Saturday Night League.

Fiesta Resort prevailed in

PAGE 28



Leonard-DeRozan swap: Huge risk for Spurs, Raptors PAGE 29

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

32 FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2018

Sapong hands CNMI second gold



The CNMI's Zarinae Sapong poses with her dad, Robin, after winning the gold medal in the 200m run yesterday in the 9th Micronesian Games in Yap.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

arinae Sapong closed out her campaign in the 9th Micronesian Games in style by claiming the gold medal in the 200m run last night in Yap.

After posting only the second fastest time (27.35 seconds) in the quali-

fying heat last Wednesday, the CNMI sprinter managed to record the best mark in yesterday's finale after registering 27.01 seconds. Sapong defeated Guam's Shania Bulala, who ruled the qualifying heat with a time of (27 seconds), but registered 27.25 seconds in the medal race to end up with the silver

medal. Bulala's compatriot Celina Amparo

notched bronze after checking in at 27.26 seconds.

Sapong also raced for the Commonwealth's 4x400m relay team last night, joining forces with Therize Millare,

Jerlyn Castillo, and Eleina Santos for a bronze-medal finish. The CNMI runners clocked in at 4:24.43 to place behind Guam (4:19.18) and Pohnpei (4:20.90).

In other results last Wednesday, Orrin Pharmin still had a strong showing in the last four events in octathlon. He recorded one first place finish, two third, and one fifth in the first four events and then added a top finish in the javelin (41.28m), fifth in the 110 hurdles (21.53 seconds) and high jump (1.25m), and third in the 1,000m run (3:18.34). Points corresponding to how

See SAPONG on Page 30

The Crank' duels 'Handz of Steel' in UFC 22

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com

Marianas pride Frank "The Crank" Camacho will return

to the Ultimate Fight-Championship stage, as he takes on Geoff "Handz of Steel" Neal in one of the initial

nine bouts slated in UFC 228.

Camacho square off with Neal

in a welterweight fight on

Sept. 8 (Sept. 9 Saipan time) at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas. The Guam-born and Saipanraised MMA practitioner signed his fight contract yesterday to seal his date with the 27-year-old Neal.

"It's always an amazing opportunity to showcase my skills, heart, and grit in front of the world at the world stage in the UFC, most especially to represent the Marianas and where I come from. I wake up every day counting my blessings," Camacho told Saipan Tribune when asked about his

See UFC on Page 30

UFC TV PHOTO Frank "The Crank" Camacho, left, hits Damien Brown on the chin during the first round of their bout in the UFC Fight Night 121 in Australia last year.

